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CLIMBERS FALL SHORT OF RECORD

'Indoor Everest' attempt wall too small

ROCK climbers David Taylor and Graham Ford confirmed last night their record attempt for charity had failed.

The pair spent 20 hours scaling the indoor climbing wall at Bluewater shopping centre a staggering 885 times to match the height of Everest.

But they believed the wall was 10 metres high – in fact it is just six metres. It meant their record fell short by more than 3,500 metres and they would have had to scale it another 590 times to get the Guinness World Record for indoor climbing in the fastest time.

EXCLUSIVE

BY LAUREN MUMFORD

The two men climbed for 10 hours on Thursday and 10 hours on Friday – and celebrated when they thought they had reached the 8,848 metre target.

But when record attempt assessors measured the wall they found it was only six metres high – bringing the celebrations to an abrupt end.

A Guinness World Records spokesman said: "David and Graham indeed made the correct application and received all the information they needed to make their record attempt

by Guinness World Records.

"However, it's very unfortunate to hear they did not follow the minimum 10 metre wall guideline.

"We're sorry to hear that the attempt was not successful, but they are more than welcome to reapply for the record and attempt it once again following the correct regulations."

Mr Taylor, 22 and Mr Ford, 26, both from Maidstone, had come up with the attempt to collect money for the national disability charity Scope.

A spokeswoman for the charity said: "David and Graham did fantastically well on the day and they raised hundreds of pounds for Scope, which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



ONLY WAY IS UP: Graham Ford and David Taylor on the wall at Bluewater Picture PHIL HOUGHTON



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1 Kent's own Able Seaman Mark Wallis is on his way to serve in the Gulf on the Royal Navy's HMS Manchester. See **Community TV**



2 See trailers of all the latest Hollywood blockbusters, including Ben Kingsley as an alcoholic hitman in *You Kill Me*. See **Leisure TV**



3 Motoring editor Steve Loader test drives a new 4x4. But can you guess the marque? See **Motors TV**

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LINE UP: Cocaine is the second most popular drug among users, behind cannabis

Cheap cocaine use trebles in just two years

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

COCAINE, cannabis, Ketamine and amphetamines are the drugs of choice for a new breed of addicts – according to a study from a leading drug research and support service.

KCA has warned that heroin is no longer the biggest problem in the county, and figures obtained by Yourmaidstone under the Freedom Of Information Act back up the findings for mid Kent.

The service says the latest British Crime Survey data shows more people now use cocaine, Ketamine cannabis, steroids, and Ecstasy than heroin.

Police figures for mid Kent confirm that while the number of people caught with heroin has levelled out since 2003, the number of people found with Ecstasy, cocaine and amphetamines has risen sharply in two years.

KCA director of research, Neil Hunt, said: "Increasingly, thirty-some things are using a complex repertoire of substances. These include cannabis, cocaine and Ecstasy, almost always against a backdrop of high levels of alcohol use."

The study shows that although the use of most class-A drugs has been relatively stable in recent years, cocaine use is increasing.

Police figures show cautions for cocaine possession have risen steadily since 2003, with 55 people reprimanded since April last year, making it the second most popular drug after cannabis.

In 2003, just 11 people were charged with cocaine possession and a further seven were cautioned.

Mr Hunt said: "For a growing number of people, what starts as an occasional treat can turn into a habit that costs too much and leads to serious harm – including heart attacks and strokes."

The author of several reports into drug use has warned that cannabis use in particular is becoming endemic, with serious consequences for a minority of users.

He said: "In many sectors of society, cannabis use has become normalised and it is a staple for many poly-drug users.

"Although unproblematic for most, more people are coming to treatment services because heavy cannabis use is hurting study, work or relationships."

The police statistics show that cautions and charges for cannabis possession have risen sharply since 2003, with a 160 people cautioned or charged for possession since April 2006, compared to just 29 from 2003 to 2004.

KCA is concerned that many recreational drug users do not seek help because the focus on links between crime and drugs has created the perception that drugs services are only for heroin addicts.

The organisation is keen to make it clear that the range of services it offers is available to anyone who feels that drugs of any kind are having a negative impact on their lives.

KCA counsellors offer confidential advice and information on all aspects of drug use from reducing the risks, confidence building and healthy living, to strategies for change, goal setting and life skills.

Purse chains to stop festive pick-pockets

POLICE officers will hand out free purse chains to members of the public as part of their Safer Winter campaign.

Crime prevention advice will be distributed to stop purse thefts as part of the countywide campaign.

Officers will be handing out purse chains to members of the public at Fremlin Walk Shopping Centre on December 11 and The Mall Chequers on December 12 in a bid to deter thieves snatching purses.

Leaflet drop to help avoid Christmas debt

THE Citizen Advice Bureau is warned people to steer clear of loan-sharks and doorstep lenders in order to stay afloat this Christmas.

The CAB Maidstone branch has produced a leaflet that will be delivered in areas targeted by lenders, offering advice on how to avoid debt.

CAB manager Bonny Malhotra said: "Not all doorstep lenders are unlicensed but they can all charge high repayments."

Tory triumphant in council bi-election

TORY Sheena Williams won Thursday's close bi-election to join Maidstone council for Shepway South.

She polled 251 votes, Labour's Gill Annan was just behind with 240, Liberal Democrat Bryan Vizzard, 173 and Stephen Muggeridge of the Green party 34.

The council is now made up of 27 Conservative members, 21 Liberal Democrats, four independents and three Labour councillors.

Gathering's tribute to the terminally ill

A LEADING charity to help people suffering from terminal illnesses has raised £17,000 with its Light up a Life campaign.

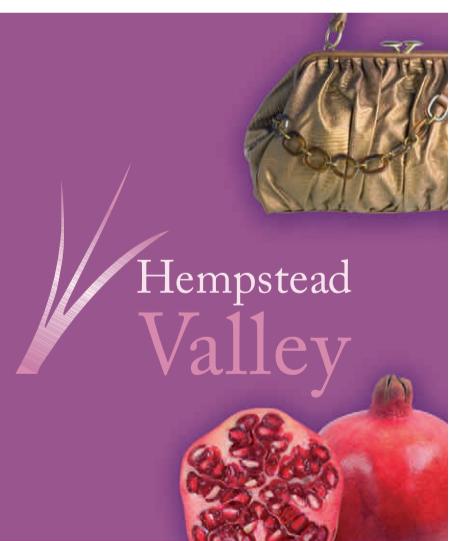
The Heart of Kent Hospice raised the money at its annual charity event, held at All Saint's Church in Maidstone.

A crowd of 700 lit candles in remembrance of family members and friends who passed away because of terminal illness.

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Jewellers robbed

twice in a week

Staff stunned by repeat raids on same shop

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

ARMED robbers have targeted an upmarket jeweller's store in Maidstone twice in just one week.

In the first robbery on Tuesday last week, a staff member was sprayed in the face with pepper spray and three days later staff were faced with raiders armed with sledgehammers.

Detectives believe the two attacks may be linked.

The three walked in in the early afternoon on Friday and smashed displays after threatening staff.

They stole £200,000 worth of Rolex watches and a selection of other valuable items, said police.

The men drove off in a blue saloon, parked in Earl Street, which was later found abandoned on Edna Road in Ringlestone, near Maidstone.

During the robbery earlier in the week a shop assistant was sprayed with a noxious sub-



TARGETED: Fraser Hart jewellers (inset) in the Fremlin Walk shopping Centre was robbed twice in a week

stance, believed to be pepper spray.

Cops say they have dozens of witness statements because both took place in broad daylight at the new shopping centre in the town.

Detective Sergeant Graham Hooks, of Kent Police, said: "Because this crime was carried out in broad daylight in front of many witnesses, we have a lot of information to sift through and we are currently following up many different lines of inquiry.

"We are taking a highly proactive stance and town centre officers are visiting other jewellers in the town to offer crime prevention advice and are stepping up patrols to provide reassurance."

The Fraser Hart store is one of the most prestigious in the Fremlin Walk shopping centre

with an impressive glass frontage.

It also carries out valuations, repairs, insurance quotations as well as selling some of the top name watches including Armani, Hugo Boss, Gucci, Rolex and Tag Heuer.

No official figure has yet been released for the two hauls.

Meanwhile, a man has been charged following a failed robbery at a jewellers in Sittingbourne.

Police said a man tried to steal watches and jewellery worth £40,000 from Topps, but he was apprehended by staff and members of the public. A man, who police have not identified, is in custody and is due in court in Maidstone.

Police believe the Sittingbourne incident was not linked to the incidents in Maidstone.

Climbers hit a wall with new record

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

hundreds of pounds for Scope, which will help us provide vital services for disabled people.

"Although it's a shame they didn't manage to set the world record, the height they covered indoors is a massive achievement and here at Scope we are all really grateful for their efforts."

The confusion about the height of the indoors climbing wall in the atrium of Britain's biggest shopping centre is believed to have come from Bluewater's website – which states it is 36ft – which is 10 metres.

The website states: "Climbers from the age of six years old can have a go on the 36ft Big Blue Rock."

Mr Taylor and Mr Ford are trying to raise £3,500 each to take part in a trek in February for Scope to summit Kala Pattar, Mount Everest in Nepal.

The two friends now plan to attempt the indoors record again next year and will ensure they get the height right next time.

The company which runs the Big Blue Rock climbing wall at Bluewater was unavailable for comment.

Gypsies told they will be given more land in borough

GYPSIES and travellers could be allocated up to 35 pitches of land in the borough within the next five years.

Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people are being rewarded between five and seven plots of land in various villages each year until 2011, which will act as a permanent home for their caravans and families.

Councillors spent hours at the meeting at County Hall on Monday evening, deciding how they will go about choosing land suitable for travellers to be housed in.

Clr Harwood said: "This is a very controversial matter. It is widely known what sites have been a home to gypsies in the past because of the amount of rubbish left – we must ensure that we protect the countryside from this happening so I am proposing we look at granting temporary sites instead."

"A lot of stigma is attached to travellers by those outside the travelling community, travellers have always

lived in Kent – it's those people who have moved to the area from outer towns who have an issue with where gypsies locate."

It was apparent that many of the sites that have already been allocated to travellers are not used because they are difficult to get to, not close to schools and are often quite far away from urban areas.

Clr Lusty said: "There are many parish councils that are recommending sites in their village but they are just no good, many travellers now work in urban areas instead of on land so they need to be able to get to work. Many plots previously given are prone to flooding and are not appropriate, these places just get unused."

The committee decided that land allocation needs to be scrutinised just as development plans for the building of a house would, drawing in on surveys and environmental studies before making a decision.

'Unethical' funds to be questioned

CAMPAIGNERS are due to fire questions at the council over millions of pounds in investments in arms, tobacco and oil companies.

Green Party member Stuart Jeffery will be questioning Maidstone council at a meeting today as part of the party's continuing campaign against unethical investment.

The party will be pushing the council to voice its opinion over the investments managed by Kent County Council after they discovered from March 31 this year, share holdings held by KCC included £13.9 million in BAe Systems which is the UK's biggest arms manufacturer, £14 million in tobacco and £91.8 million in oil.

Stuart Jeffery said: "We were outraged to learn that the council's pension fund managers had invested heavily in arms, tobacco and oil. With ethical investments outperforming un-ethical ones, there is absolutely no need to be supporting these companies.

"We will be asking the question 'Does this council agree that investing in arms, tobacco and oil companies should be condemned?' If so, will the borough council call upon KCC to adopt an ethical investment policy and to withdraw its significant shares in companies?"

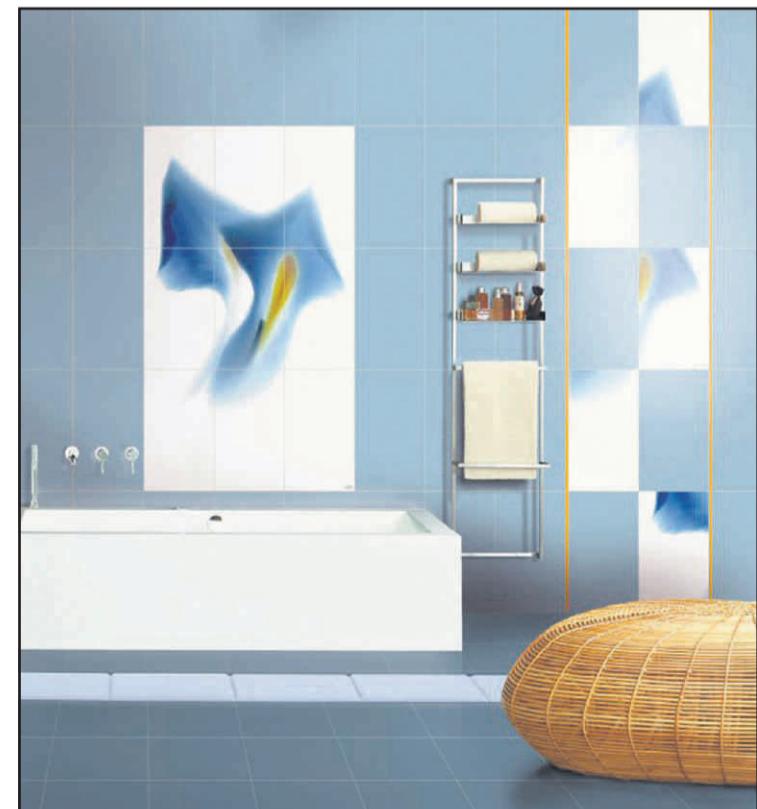
The Green Party wants Maidstone council to approach KCC and propose that they stop investing in oil, tobacco and arms. If the county council refuses, they then want to ask if it would set up a separate fund based on ethical principles.

If KCC refuse to do either of their requests, they want Maidstone council to withdraw from the Kent Fund and place the pension fund elsewhere.

"We were astounded to learn that the spokesperson for the committee, Lib Dem Dan Daley, wasn't even aware that these investments existed. There has to be pressure on the county council to change its policies and this must come from every quarter," Mr Jeffery said.

The Green Party has now started an online petition to try and get KCC to change its ways.

For more information visit: www.maidstone.greenparty.org.uk.



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Man's pub violence was 'uncivilised'

DRINKER Roy Capey exploded into violence when a 16 year old taunted him outside a pub in Sheerness High Street.

Sittingbourne magistrates heard Capey, 39, of Lunsford Lane, Larkfield, punched him in the mouth and stamped on his face.

Capey was arrested after police saw the mayhem on closed circuit television. He told police the youth had been drinking with others at the unnamed pub while Capey had had four shots of vodka and a beer.

He pleaded guilty to assault on the youth who was treated for bruising.

Capey told the court: "I'm sorry it happened. There were some 15-year-old boys drinking outside and they shouldn't have been. If they had been older and could have held their drink this wouldn't have happened."

Chairman of the bench Elizabeth Tuhberg sentenced Capey to 160 hours community service and ordered him to pay the youth £150 compensation plus £60 court costs.

Mrs Tuhberg said: "You indulged in physical violence which was totally reprehensible. Your behaviour was unwarranted and uncivilised.

"You have not got a good record. I normally have to say such things to 16-year-olds not to a man of your age."

Fine art discovered will be on display

A FAMOUS picture painted by an artist from the county town has been discovered at an auction house 85 miles away.

A pencil and watercolour study by Maidstone-born Albert Goodwin was discovered by a surprised keeper of fine art in Hampshire who recognised his work.

It will feature in Maidstone Museum's 'Albert Goodwin Visionary Landscapes' exhibition which opens on December 15.

The display will be open to the public at Maidstone Museum until March 23.

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Santa and his reindeer at Fremlin Walk

Picture PHIL HOUGHTON



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ACTING ON XMAS DRIVERS

HUNDREDS of actors performed a mime to spread the important message to drivers that "drinking and driving wrecks lives."

Around 250 young actors gathered outside Sessions House, County Hall in Maidstone on Monday afternoon as part of Kent Highway Services biggest Christmas anti drink-drive campaign.

Each of the 250 actors at County Hall represented one of the people in Kent who are killed or injured by drinking and driving each year.

KHS Road Safety Operations Manager Steve Horton said: "We think our silent message will make people think twice about drinking and driving this year."

"Over the Christmas and New Year period more people than ever get tempted to drink and drive. The message Kent Highways Services want to get across is that one drink is one too many if you are planning to get behind the wheel."

The launch of this year's drink drive campaign is being supported with a series of television adverts which represent the mime. The campaign message will also feature in bars, at cinemas, on buses and across roadside billboards.

No reprieve for our at risk Post Offices

TWO post offices have officially been told they will close as part of cost-cutting measures by Royal Mail bosses.

Hardy Street post office in Maidstone and South Park post office in Loose had hoped to get a reprieve after a six-week consultation period.

Concerned customers wrote letters and signed petitions in a bid to dispute the decision and attempt to save their service.

But the two post offices were last week given the devastating news that they will be axed.

Postmaster Luke Collins, 55, of Hardy Street, said: "The decision has been made and unfortunately there's nothing we can do about it, the customers were unhappy with the decision and it seems that they have taken no notice of our petition or the letters people have sent.

"This post office has been here since 1870. We have been here for 10 years and I have loved every minute of it. I am very disappointed it's

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

being closed."

The first of the services to close are expected in January.

These cuts follow the guidelines of a new Kent post office plan which was introduced by the government.

The guidelines, which are set through a national accessibility criteria, are to ensure that 99 per cent of the population will either see no change to their branch or they will remain within one mile of an alternative post office.

However, Mr Collins claims that this will just put additional strain on the town centre and the transport system.

"Many residents who use this post office are elderly and find it difficult to walk any further than they do to get here. To get to their nearest service they will have to catch a busy bus and put more pressure on the already busy town's services," he said.

During the consultation period more than 5,400 responses were given by the public and by the affected post office branches. Petitions were also signed in a bid to help sway the decision.

As a result of the information provided during this period, improvements are being made to 18 branches in the county to help improve accessibility or to increase capacity by providing additional counter positions.

Gary Herbert, Post Office Ltd's network development manager for Kent, said: "We have considered very carefully all the comments made during the public consultation. We believe that the amended plan offers our customers across Kent the best prospect for a sustainable network in the future."

For full details of the issues and decisions raised during the consultation period visit www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

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Cash to flow in county town for regeneration

A MASSIVE government regeneration project for the town could see Maidstone receive cash grants of up to £50 million over the next decade.

Next year £1.8 million has already been set aside and £5 million is earmarked over the next three year period to fund improvements to the local infrastructure.

These are the first payments following Maidstone's designation as a growth point and the borough council will be appealing for more cash in 2009.

New park and ride facilities are planned to the north of the town along the A229 to serve shoppers and commuters from the Medway towns.

Another service will be established at Langley Park Farm to the south of the town

■ BY NICK AMES

while the Sittingbourne Road site is to undergo a massive refurbishment.

The cash is forthcoming as the Government has declared the county town a growth point.

The council has also appealed for £9 million in order to fund a new Heritage Quarter and tourist attraction as well as regenerate the area around Knighttrider Street and realign Upper Stone Street.

Benefit

Local authority leader Fran Wilson said: "All groups on the council saw the benefit to the town of becoming a growth point.

"We agreed to take another 1,800 houses over 20 years, taking our total to 10,080 so that we could apply for extra funding to deal with existing infrastructure problems and plan for the

extra houses that were inevitably coming our way.

"Time has proved us right because neighbouring towns have been allocated more houses than had been agreed but were unable to bid for the growth point money."

Other cash gains for Maidstone could include £5 million for improvements to public places and £3.7 million to fund an extension to the east wing of the museum.

A new £20 million library and history centre has also been proposed while for an investment cost of £5.4 million a small business enterprise centre working with the Federated Academy of New Line Learning Schools which would create 60 new units for new businesses.

Sustainability and improvement of the air quality underpin all the projects which also include a greening of the infrastructure, better pedestrian routes, marketing to sell the town and a business skills drive.

Picture: LAUREN MUMFORD



CHARITY CAROL CHORUS: Westborough Primary School took part in The Mall's Xmas Factor competition

KIDS FULL OF FESTIVE SONG

SHOPPERS were serenaded with Christmas carols sung by primary school children as part of a festive fundraiser.

Children from Westborough Primary School took part in the Mall's Xmas Factor competition where they sang a festive selection of Christmas carols to lighten shopper's spirits and raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

The school choir, who sang last Thursday at The Mall in Maidstone, raised a staggering £602 for the charity that has been providing care and support for cancer sufferers and their families through-out Kent for over 40 years.

Music teacher Mrs Auriol Richards said: "The afternoon's gone really well, the children were buzzing and really going for it, so many people have been stopping to watch them."

"They have been rehearsing for four weeks prior to the event and have been practising hard."

Proud parent Ms Sharon Jackson was amongst the crowd and said: "I am very proud of my two daughters, Casey, 10 and Aleesha, nine, who are both singing in the choir today. The girls have been really excited, constantly singing around the house and working really hard practising."

Charities were invited to take part in The Mall's Xmas Factor at the end of last month to help raise money for their chosen cause.

Organisations have been booked at the centre for a day to participate in the event up until December 16 where they will be able to collect money for their charity while a school choir sing a selection of Christmas favourites. The money raised by the winning school choir at the end of the competition will be matched by The Mall.

Ms Caroline Drake, 27, a community fundraiser for Marie Curie Cancer Care said: "Today's fundraising has gone really well, the tins are full which is starting to make my arms hurt."

"The children's singing is just beautiful - having them here while we are collecting really makes you feel Christmassy and festive."

• Mums and dads - there were so many of you our video crew were unable to get close enough. Upload your video of children singing at www.Yourkenttv.co.uk.

Pub brings smokers back in from the cold

SMOKERS can enjoy views over beautiful countryside and keep warm thanks to a new al fresco eating and drinking facility.

Customers at The Bull Inn in Linton celebrated the opening of a new al fresco area in the pub's beer garden on Saturday which has outdoor heating and lighting and can seat up to 25 people.

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Offer code: 7876

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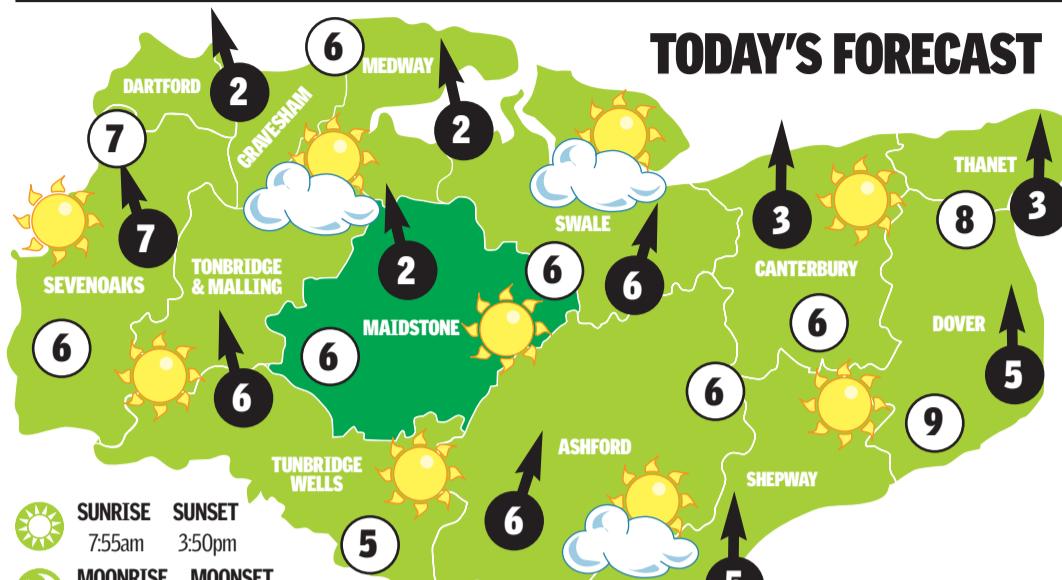
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TODAY'S FORECAST

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

	Saturday	4.15pm	5.5m
Dover	Sunday	5.03pm	5.4m
	Saturday	2.11pm	6.0m
	Sunday	3.03pm	5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	1.59pm	6.7m
	Sunday	2.50pm	6.6m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2.57pm	4.5m
	Sunday	3.47pm	4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	4.03pm	5.3m
	Sunday	4.51pm	5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	4.02pm	4.9m
	Sunday	4.52pm	4.8m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	5°C
Canterbury	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Chatham	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Dartford	6°C	4°C	4°C	5°C	5°C
Dover	5°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	5°C
Faversham	5°C	3°C	4°C	5°C	5°C
Folkestone	5°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Gillingham	6°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	5°C

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Gravesend	6°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Maidstone	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Ramsgate	4°C	5°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Rochester	5°C	5°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Sittingbourne	5°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Sevenoaks	5°C	1°C	5°C	4°C	5°C
Tonbridge	5°C	1°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Tun Wells	5°C	1°C	5°C	5°C	5°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	17°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	9°C
Beijing	0°C	Rome	13°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	22°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	8°C	Tokyo	11°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	0°C
Hong Kong	24°C	Warsaw	3°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	23°C

GRIEF: Star Kelly Brook and her family at the funeral



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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANNA MOORE



Q & A

Anna Moore is a style queen and a personal shopper at Bluewater and with her help can make a person look and feel like a million dollars in just a day – as she explained to **Nick Ames**

Q So what does your job actually involve?

A Someone will contact me saying that they need help in choosing an outfit – it may be a woman who is going back to work after having a baby for example.

I'll do a profile of them, find out about their lifestyle, and their likes and dislikes about themselves. I then go to stores I think are appropriate, choose outfits and accessories, and the client will spend time with me trying them on and I'll give my opinion on what works and what doesn't.

Q Why do you feel that a second opinion on choosing clothes is important?

A People tend to focus on what they don't like about themselves – it's 'does my bum look big in this?' But I will notice what really does look good in a person. It could be a great pair of legs or wonderful cleavage.

I will try and accentuate that rather than conceal. Also when I dress and accessorise I can see how things will work together. Like a pair of trousers might be great for work, but with a little bit added would be fine for evening wear.

Q How did you get into this line of work?

A I was working as a commercial stylist, so I was dressing models and organising fashion shoots and I kept getting asked for my

advice by friends. It ended up that I was doing more of the personal than the professional, so I decided to go full time.

Q What is the major difference between then and now for you?

A Well I used to dress models, now I deal with real people. They come in all shapes and sizes, they are aged 18-70 with different attitudes, lifestyles and budgets. It's far more interesting and far more of a challenge.

Q Who is the most famous person you dressed?

A I'd have to say Yasmin le Bon.

Q How is it working at Bluewater?

A It's great – it's all just so handy. Doing this in the West End you are taking cabs, driving in traffic and taking ages to get anywhere. At Bluewater it's all under one roof, shops are seconds away, parking is easy. There are great cafes and restaurants to take a break in as well. I actually approached Bluewater myself and asked them if I could work alongside their stores and it's worked out great.

Q What about the stores themselves?

A Fantastic – they're all top quality and range from the quirky to the large flagship stores.

Q What about your own personal shopping preferences?

A I love Massimo Dutti (a worldwide fashion chain with ranges including sophisticated, urban and sporty). But I also think M&S is fantastic. I'm certainly not a designer-led girl. If I think something is worth the money I will buy it. But the fast fashion on sale in the British High Street is fantastic – not beaten anywhere else.

Q What has been popular in the run-up to Christmas?

A I have had a lot of husbands buying vouchers for their wives to come and shop with me and that has been great.

They cost £300 and I suppose the present includes a budget for the visit on many occasions.

Q So what would you consider a good present, say I paid for a voucher and donated £700 for a £1,000 gift to a friend. Is that about average?

A Actually it's very generous – I think anything over £500 works. But you can get yourself kitted out very nicely for £200 so it's not got to be hugely extravagant.

Trip to France & a Case of Wine all for only £30



**It's Christmas! And
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You will receive your wine voucher when you check in for your daytrip departure. A £10 surcharge is applicable on tickets booked to travel on Saturdays.

All your favourite Sainsbury's wines, beers and spirits are now available in Calais at amazingly cheap prices! Try pre-ordering online at the Sainsbury's Calais website, where you can enjoy special online discounts and when you arrive at the store, all your goods will be scanned and packed for you, ready to pick up! **Visit Sainsbury's Calais online at www.sainsburys.co.uk**

How to take advantage of this fantastic offer: Simply phone the P&O Ferries hotline on: **0871 664 5555** and quote '**Sainsburys Christmas**' or to book online visit: www.poferries.com/sainsburys

(P&O Ferries hotline open: Mon - Fri 8am-8pm, Sat & Sun 8am-6.30pm). Calls are charged at 10p per minute from a BT Landline. Payment must be made by selected credit/debit card** at the time of booking.

This promotion is valid for travel any day from now until the 20th Dec 2007. Bookings can be made from today until 19th Dec 2007.

P&O Ferries

P&O Ferries Promotion: Offer valid on Dover to Calais crossings. Car and up to nine passengers. A £10 surcharge is applicable on tickets booked to travel on Saturdays. All offers are subject to restricted space, sailings and dates. Once your booking has been confirmed to you, no amendments will be permitted. No refunds will be given even if the booking has not been travelled on. Bookings can be made up to the day before travel. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. This offer may be withdrawn without prior notice. No bookings will be taken at the port. **Payments made by credit card/cheque are subject to a booking fee. When you travel between 8:20pm and 05:40am from Dover our Lite Nights service means there will be limited onboard facilities but we will offer hot food, onboard bar, bureau de change and onboard shopping. All other outlets will be closed. Full Terms and Conditions available on the website: www.poferries.com

Sainsbury's Wine offer: Wine must be collected from Sainsbury's Wine Store in Calais by 20th December 2007. Offer can only be redeemed on production of the appropriate P&O ferries voucher at the checkout. Voucher will be provided with your P&O Ferries travel tickets on departure. Offer valid for one case of complimentary wine per car ferry ticket (not per passenger). Subject to availability, the Calais store will reserve the right to replace the wine case on offer with a similar case of wine of equal or higher value. The law does not permit the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years. Please drink responsibly.

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1 Waltzing with Gordon Giltrap

Thanet residents Ian Sharpe and Victoria Lawrence are UK champion amateur ballroom and Latin American dancers, and have appeared in TV shows and ads – they were filmed dancing to Mrs Singer's Waltz, a tune composed and performed by famed guitarist Gordon Giltrap.



2 Your roving puppet reporter

Meet the county's newest roving reporter – Ken Tishman. Although he's a puppet, Ken has strong views about foreign criminals behind bars at Canterbury prison, the cost of public transport, and how elderly people will be hit by the high cost of heating their homes.



3 Confessions of a DJ

Inspired by the popular films of Invicta FM radio presenters' confessions on Community TV, our own sweet-toothed rapper EmCee Flapjack has some of his own secrets he wants to get off his chest. If you've got a story to share, why not upload it to yourkenttv.co.uk?



4 Unique gorilla is born free

This footage shows the first gorilla born in the wild to reintroduced parents. The film has been released by the Aspinall Foundation, based at Howletts wildlife park near Canterbury. The parents of the baby, who was born on October 5, are wild-born orphans.



SPORT TV



Ebbsfleet United manager says referees should get hi-tech help

BUSINESS TV



Ice-cream maker explains how she won a food award

PROPERTY TV



This week's focus is on the Medway housing market

LEISURE TV



Film editor Thelma Schoonmaker on working with Martin Scorsese

MOTORS TV



Motoring guru Steve Loader test drives Hyundai's new i30

BEST OF THE REST

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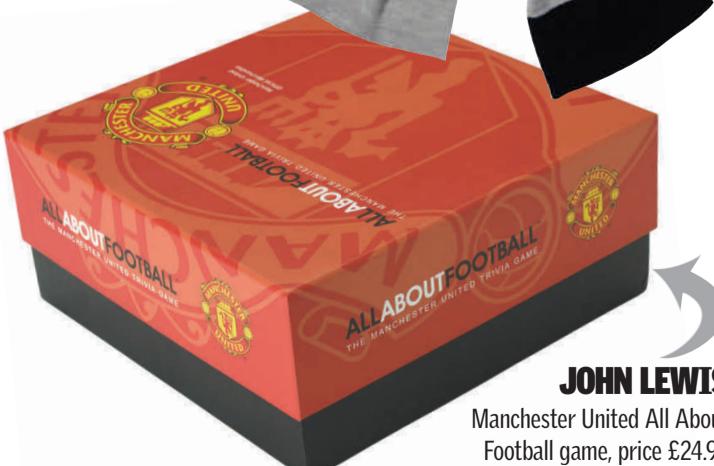
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TOPMAN

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game, price £10

JOHN LEWIS

Manchester United All About
Football game, price £24.95

MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Hugs and kisses could be yours at bear shop

BUILD-A-BEAR is spreading the festive cheer by offering its customers a host of Christmas promotions this month.

The store at Fremlin Walk in Maidstone is wishing all its customers a merry Christmas by offering the new 'Sweet Hugs and Kisses' bear for £5 when they spend £20 or more, while stocks last.

Shoppers who spend £25 or more will also be able to purchase a £10 gift voucher for half price.

For more details call 01622 769562.

Give charitably cheery cards this Christmas

CHARITY Christmas cards are on sale to raise money for research to combat one of the most common life-threatening illnesses in the country.

The Cancer Research UK charity shop in Maidstone is selling a selection of festive Christmas cards, with all proceeds going to fund its lifesaving work.

Packs of ten, 24, 30 and 40 cards are available in the Gabriel's Hill store in a range of tasteful designs. Other Christmas gifts are also available.

Great seasonal deals on games and consoles

GAME is offering a number of great deals on this year's must-have games consoles.

Shoppers visiting Game in High Street, Maidstone, can save over £49 when they buy Fifa 08 and Smackdown Vs Raw 2008 with a PlayStation 3 40GB console.

Customers can also save over £35 when they buy an Xbox 360 Elite with Assassins Creed, Forza 2 and Viva Pinta along with an extra wireless controller.

For details see www.game.co.uk.

Elf to entertain shoppers with balloon creations

CHILDREN will be kept amused by marvellous balloon creations as one of Santa's elves takes to the streets of a popular shopping area.

The festive character will be making balloon animals and figures on demand for youngsters in Fremlin Walk on Friday from 2-5pm and from 12-3pm the following Friday.

The centre in Maidstone will also host performances by Marcel Marceaux the mime artist tomorrow from 6-9pm and on Saturday from 12-3pm.

Store goes outdoors to raise funds for hospice

AN outdoor clothing store has raised more than £240 for a hospice for terminally ill children by organising a 10km sponsored walk.

Cotswold Outdoor raised the funds for Demelza House Children's Hospice in Bobbing after taking walkers through the North Downs to Boxley and Detling.

The store, based in Newnham Court Shopping Village, will continue to support Demelza House as its nominated charity with in-store events and other fundraising activities.

For more details visit www.cotswold-outdoor.com.

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WIN! Signed Long Way Down books courtesy of Kent Nissan dealerships

ADVENTURE addicts hooked on Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman's fantastic Long Way Down expedition will be thrilled to learn that Nissan, which provided two Patrols to support the team on its extreme journey, is releasing a number of Long Way Down Special Edition vehicles.

To complement the current range of naturally capable 4x4s, Nissan has created Special Editions of not just the Patrol but also the Navara 4x4 pickup to mark Nissan's involvement with the Long Way Down adventure.

Available now from Ancaster Bromley, Beadles Maidstone and Motorline Dartford including other Nissan dealerships in the area, motorists can drive away in the vehicles famed for their rugged performance, much like the Nissan Patrols that supported the travellers on their journey from John O'Groats to Cape Town.

To celebrate, the Kent Nissan dealerships are offering readers the chance to win one of 15 Long Way Down books signed not only by

NISSAN
SPORTS ADVENTURE

Russ Malkin and David Alexanian, the producers and directors of the hit show who drove the Nissan Patrols 15,000 miles, but also by adventurer Charley Boorman, who travelled the journey by motorcycle.

The two Nissan Patrols, which were modified to take the extreme rigours of the journey, demonstrated well-proven strengths of the Nissan 4x4 range including reliability, power and durability as they supported the Long Way Down team.

During their 86-day tour, the vehicles tackled non-existent roads, uncompromising terrain, deep mud and floods. The only problem to report over the journey was a single puncture between them!

It's easy to see why the Long Way Down team chose a Nissan 4x4 as their support vehicle on their gruelling 15,000-mile journey. The Patrol 'Long Way Down' Special Edition boasts a high-performance 3.0 litre, 160 PS, 16-valve



diesel engine along with a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission with selectable 4WD and dual ratio gearbox.

Not all 'muscle', the tough vehicle also allows for luxury with climate control air-conditioning, DVD satellite navigation and luxury leather upholstery.

Matched in strength, style and durability are the Nissan Navara and Nissan Navara Expedition 'Long Way Down' special editions.

The Navara also took on an important role on the Long Way Down journey, it was driven by local crew from Botswana to South Africa.

With the same 4x4 spirit, the Navara's impressive engine delivers 171 HP and an

incredible 403Nm of torque, making it the most powerful vehicle in its class.

This European best-selling pickup gives great durability without increasing weight, able to take on heavy loads exceeding 1,000 Kg. The Special Editions boast 17-inch alloy wheels, dual zone climate control, six-speed manual transmission, part-time 4WD and leather upholstery for comfort and style.

The Navara 'Long Way Down' Expedition Special Edition further boasts DVD satellite navigation with voice activation and hands-free phone operation.

For further information about the Long Way Down Special Edition vehicles or to arrange a test drive, contact Nissan Ancaster Bromley on 020 8290 8700, Beadles Maidstone on 01622 716777 or Motorline Dartford on 01322 280025.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Nissan Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is December 19, 2007.

Q) Which Nissan 4x4 did the Long Way Down team drive from John O'Groats to Cape Town?

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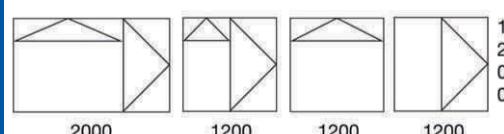


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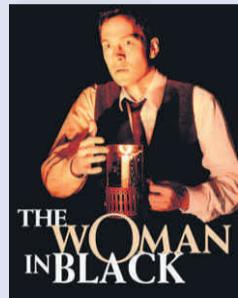
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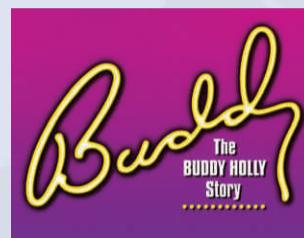
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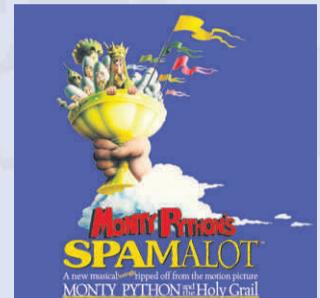
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yourmaidstoneblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

Time to get the bored 'chavs' off the streets

KIDS are like puppies – if they're bored and have nothing to do they will get themselves into trouble.

Week after week I read in the newspapers and see on the television how children are committing more and more crimes, and intimidating people on a day-to-day basis, however, I think the only reason they are doing this is purely because they are bored and having nothing else to do.

Every weekend in Maidstone town centre I see groups of children and teenagers walking around the streets looking untidy, spitting as if they're animals and causing trouble.

The majority of kids that walk the streets in the evenings are stereotypically modern day 'chavs' fashioning their baggy tracksuit bottoms, cheap/fake designer jewellery and trainers that frankly should be banned.

It doesn't matter what time of the day it is, they're just there, next to McDonald's, by Burger King or sitting in some sort of alleyway or 'hidey-hole' writing on walls, smoking, spit-

ting and looking threatening to the vulnerable people who have to walk by.

A lot of kids go into town to shop, socialise with friends and then go home, but for the vast majority, I have noticed that over the three years I have lived in Maidstone, more and more children are just hanging around the streets, which sends out the wrong impression of our town.

I always see kids approaching members of the public either to poke fun at them to pass the time or to get them to buy cigarettes as the legal age to purchase them has now risen to 18.

In the day time, kids are spitting on the streets, smoking when they're clearly underage, and insulting the vulnerable (the elderly or younger children) as they pass by.

I wonder about the parenting skills that the parents of these 'chavs' clearly lack... for example in December, kids should be wearing a little more than just jogging bottoms or short skirts and slim-fitted tops with their puppy fat seeping through the gaps.

Surely the parents should be stopping them looking like cheap tarts and refusing to let

them hang around streets at night not only because they look ridiculous, but as it's dangerous and irresponsible.

My worry is that by these parents letting their kids out loose on the streets at all hours of the day, not knowing what they are doing, they will get used to doing nothing productive, get in with the wrong crowd and end up being the future benefit claimers.

Maybe if there were more events, like football, athletics and youth clubs, where they could do something productive, there wouldn't be as much trouble on the streets.

Children would also benefit from events that happen in the evenings, if they were asked what they would like to do and the council spent some time and money in trying to fulfil these wishes Maidstone would be a better place.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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TALK TIME

DAVID TAYLOR

A 22-year-old financial adviser and freelance pyrotechnist told Yourmaidstone about his charity work and interests.



Where do you live in Maidstone and what attracted you to the area?

I live in central Maidstone with my fiancée and son. I have lived in the Maidstone area most of my life and I chose this area because it's an hour from the coast, an hour from London and my family.

Do you have any claims to fame?

I attempted to climb the height of Mount Everest (8,848 metres) on the indoor climbing wall at Bluewater shopping centre last week to set a new world record. The event is part of our fundraising efforts for a trek we're doing in February next year for the charity Scope. I need to raise £3,500. We will be going to the Himalayas where we will trek for 19 days through the Khumba region of Nepal to the base of Everest and then summit Kala Pattar.

I've been running, rowing and weight training to prepare myself for the event.

I'm nervous but also very excited about it all. However, the main reason we are doing this is to raise lot of money for Scope, which works with people with cerebral palsy and this is more important than setting a world record.

What other hobbies and interests do you have?

I've been rock climbing, mountaineering and kayaking since the age of 11.

I have also been a Beaver Scout leader since I left the Scouts and I volunteer for the Red Cross, providing medical cover for various events such as football matches or concerts.

YOUR LETTERS



Stop being selfish and move forward

I must be in the minority when I say I agree with the idea of a freight terminal on land between Bearsted and Lenham.

It's all very well to keep opposing this idea, but as far as I am aware where they want to build it the area is green fields unlike the area around Tonbridge where some land has been built on, or from Paddock Wood, East Peckham and Mereworth, where orchards and hop fields have disappeared under housing developments, or in this area where farm land has been developed since the 1960s.

To say nothing of part of East Malling research station also being developed, as well as oast houses being developed into living accommodation.

The main reason the people of Hollingbourne do not want the freight station there has nothing to do with it spoiling the countryside, it has more to do with the lowering of the value of houses that are there at present.

The people of Japan and some European countries must be

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We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

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laughing at the English people. No wonder Japan has got on so well, it's because they look to the

future, whereas the majority of English people seem to live in the past.

We may have been a big power once upon-a-time, however we are now part of Europe and the sooner people realise this fact the better.

I can remember when Aldon Farms at Offham was a picture in the spring time when the cherry blossom was about, that sadly has vanished as have the apple orchards over Paddock Wood way and most of the hop gardens. These were what made Kent, not meadows that would easily be used for what is proposed at Bearsted.

It seems to me that we have become a very selfish society when people prefer open spaces rather than a freight station.

Goodness knows firms have vanished in this area - what's more Sheppen has been built up so it is time that the area around Bearsted was developed.

It is utter rubbish to keep opposing everything that could take the country forward just because some people are more interested in the value of their houses rather than see this area developed for the good of all.

Mrs K Wood,
from Larkfield,
by letter.

Why would anyone support the depot?

No wonder people are angry - why on earth would anyone think the Kent International Gateway is a good idea in any shape or form?

We have some of the best countryside in the south east alongside the north downs and now someone with no idea and appreciation of the area wants to just concrete it all over.

They really should rethink this as it is a disgraceful scheme.

Brian Nyland
Maidstone

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Gateway would bring us valuable jobs

Your front page last week certainly tore into the proposed freight terminal, but I have other ideas.

What about the jobs this will create and the increased prosperity it will bring to local businesses as an influx of companies arrives in the area? People need to move with the times – development will happen whether they like it or not.

Damon Keene
Maidstone

Museum grant is good for history

Good news that Maidstone Museum is to receive a cash grant as it is a real undiscovered jewel.

The collection of military memorabilia, Japanese artifacts and treasures from the south sea islands are all of a very high standard indeed. Best of all, it's free.

This is exactly the sort of thing which will inspire young people to get a real interest in the wider world around them.

Paul Bernard
Bearsted

It's great to see such support for the trust

Good for Joanna Lumley that she is backing the Kent Wildlife Trust by becoming its patron in its 50th year. That such a popular, important

and busy person can devote their time and energy to this cause just shows how important it is that we preserve and appreciate what we have in this county.

Some of the best scenery in the United Kingdom is right on our doorsteps.

Jeremy Bentham
Hollingbourne

Don't be so paranoid about identity cards

Your blogger last week seemed to be firmly in the anti camp when it comes to the issue of identity cards. So I have to ask him or her what have they got to hide?

For people who have nothing to worry about the identity card will just not be an issue.

People will carry it as a matter of course and just use it without a second thought. It is only those who are in some way contravening the law who will have anything to be concerned about.

Miles Cavendish
Maidstone

It's a great honour, what does it mean?

Ann Widdecombe has been really good news for us and I was pleased to read your coverage of her being granted freedom of the borough.

She has been a popular MP who has never flinched from talking honestly about the major issues.

And I say that as someone who had not voted for her until the last General Election in 2005.

My final question, and one not dealt with in your story, what privileges does the Freedom of the Borough of Maidstone actually bestow upon the recipient?

Yvonne Cummings,
Maidstone

Say no to the cruelty of animal testing

The RSPCA is deeply concerned about the suffering of animals used in research and testing.

The current review of the European law governing animal experiments presents a vital opportunity to benefit millions of animals.

We have launched a petition to demonstrate how strongly the public wants the new law to ensure tighter controls on animal use in experiments throughout Europe. You can add your support at www.rspca.org.uk/directive86609, or going to your local RSPCA branch or shop.

The RSPCA believes the new law should cover all animals used in basic research as well as education and training. Such animals account for 35 per cent of animals used for scientific purposes, and are not currently protected by the law. An immediate ban on the use of great apes and wild-caught primates and a co-ordinated strategy to replace all other primates use should also be included.

We hope your name will be on the petition when we present it to the Government at the end of the year.

Sally Hall
RSPCA regional manager
South East region



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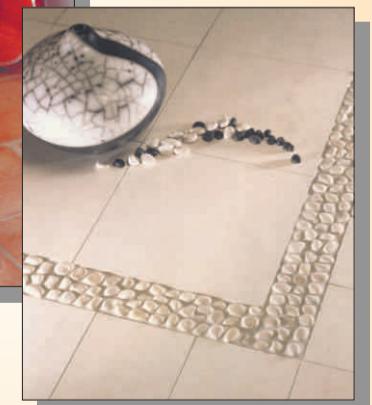
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Garlands of song about my mother

Lorna Luft's tour honours Judy Garland

CLASSIC songs with a personal resonance will ring out again as Lorna Luft brings her acclaimed show to Kent.

Songs My Mother Taught Me is Luft's first tour for a decade and one which both celebrates her own talent and pays tribute to her mother, legendary entertainer Judy Garland. Described as her most ambitious project to date, Luft has created a multi-media production that blends some of the world's best-loved songs with personal memories of her mother.

As the daughter of Garland and producer Sid Luft, music and entertainment were an integral part of her childhood.

She made her television debut on The Judy Garland Show at the age of 11, singing with the incredible voice that still makes her a hugely popular live performer.

Luft went on to become an acclaimed stage, television and film actress, best selling author, recording artist and Emmy Award nominated producer. Songs My Mother Taught Me has already been awarded two Los Angeles Theatre Alliance Ovation Awards.

Her mother was born Frances Ethel Gumm in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, in 1922. She first trod the boards at the age of two and a half, when she joined her two older sisters in a rendition of Jingle Bells at her father's theatre.

She soon emerged as the real star of the act, which had been renamed The Garland Sisters, and signed a contract with film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at the age of just 13.

In 1939 she landed the role of Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, which is perhaps her most famous and best-loved character ever.

Her unforgettable voice and outstanding charisma

LORNA LUFT

Tuesday, January 29
The Orchard Theatre, Dartford



grabbed the world's attention and she became one of MGM's most bankable stars.

As she got older, Garland tried to escape the girl-next-door image created for her in an attempt to compete with her glamorous contemporaries.

However, she always worried about her appearance and suffered a number of breakdowns due to the pressures of her relentless workload.

She was married five times and had two other children – Liza, with director Vincente Minelli, and Joseph, also with Sid Luft.

Her incredible film, television and concert career was sadly overshadowed by the drug addiction which started during her early days at MGM. She died from an accidental overdose of barbiturates in her London home in 1969, aged just 47.

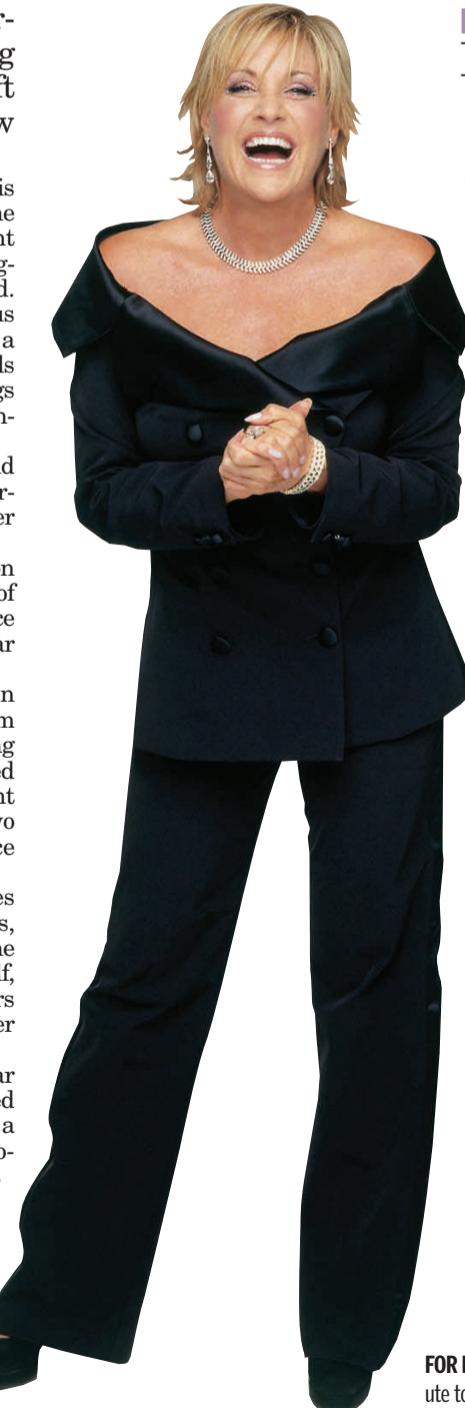
For Luft, who was only a teenager at the time of her mother's death, revisiting the past is both an emotional and uplifting experience.

She has released an album to accompany the tour, produced by husband Colin Freeman and long-time friend Barry Manilow, which includes emotive classics such as Meet Me in St Louis and A Star Is Born.

"In the show, we laugh, we cry, we sing, we joke," she said. "We celebrate the joy that was and still is my mom and her music."

The performance starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £19.50.

To book, call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



FOR MOM: Lorna Luft's first tour in ten years is a tribute to her mother, Judy Garland



DON MESCALL

Monday, December 17
Zebra Bar, Maidstone



RENNED Kent-based songwriter Don Mescall will be showing off his talents in Maidstone next week.

Mescall's songs have been recorded by big stars such as Ronan Keating, Lulu and Bryan McFadden. He has also co-written with Nashville legends Craig Wiseman, Randy Goodrum and Graham Lyle.

As a singer, Mescall has enjoyed the successful release of his debut album, Innocent Run, and major radio play of You Don't Love Me and Left in LA.

Now living in Folkestone, Mescall originally hails from Co Limerick, Ireland, and is one of just a handful of British songwriters to make an impact on Nashville's country music writing community.

Mescall is known for connecting with his audiences using intense delivery and intimately personal lyrics. Using profound life experiences, such as losing his father as a young boy and the failure of a marriage, his songs range from the fragile to the uplifting.

The gig, which will include a special surprise guest, starts at 8pm. Tickets, costing £10 on the night or £8 in advance, can be booked in person at the bar in King Street or by calling 01622 744481.



MEDIAEVAL BAEBS

Friday, December 21
Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



ENTER another world and experience a time gone by with the Mediaeval Baebes.

Seven beautiful maidens will transport you into a state of fairytale whimsy, otherworldly enchantment and supernatural seduction with their ancient songs. Singing in nine different languages, the playful and talented girls will explore topics from the dark to the light-hearted.

CINDERELLA

Saturday, December 15 until Sunday, January 6
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



JOIN the stars for a glittering night of pantomime fun at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells.

Cinderella stars children's TV favourite Barney Harwood – star of *Prank Patrol*, *Totally Dr Who* and CBBC's *Smile* – as the loveable Buttons, who falls for the beautiful servant girl.

Tom Vaughan, who played trendy DJ Spike in *Hollyoaks*, will be her Prince Charming, while Sarah Thomas, of *Last of the Summer Wine*, keeps them all in order as the Fairy Godmother.

With music, laughter and great costumes, Cinderella promises to be the theatre's most spectacular panto yet.

Cinderella opens on Saturday, December 15, and will run until Sunday, January 6 (not every day). Tickets are priced from £10 to £19.50 and performance times vary. For more information or to book, call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

Taking lyrics from mediaeval texts and setting them to original scores using period and classical instruments, the Baebes have created a unique act that has proved popular around the world. Performing everywhere from cathedrals to rock clubs, the group has released five studio albums which rode high in the classical charts.

Fall under their spell at the Trinity Theatre, where the concert starts at 8pm. Tickets cost £20/£18. To book, call the box office on 01892 678678 or visit the website at www.trinitytheatre.net



MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Bag a bizarre bargain or two at bazaar

ENJOY some street entertainment and pick up unique bargains at a Bazaar in Maidstone this weekend.

Stilt walkers will be keeping shoppers entertained while they browse a selection of handmade arts and crafts by local artists and designers. The bazaar will be held at The Royal Star Arcade in Market Buildings from 10.30am to 4.30pm on Sunday.

For details, call 01622 602828 or see www.maidstonearts.com.

Enjoy a night of silly comedy with Charlie

HAVE a laugh at the Walnut Tree in Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, when it hosts its regular adult comedy night tomorrow.

Charlie Baker has been a finalist in two major comedy competitions and enjoyed great success on the circuit. His silly, inoffensive style should provide an evening of big laughs.

The free gig starts at 9.30pm. For details call the pub on 01622 727260.

Tribute act brings to life the sounds of the 60s

RELIVE the golden age of the 1960s with a live performance by Mel Harris tonight.

Billed as the ultimate 60s tribute act, Harris uses his incredible vocal and guitar skills to recreate the magic of that fabled decade. Featuring all the best-loved hits, his show should get your dancing feet moving.

Harris will be performing at the Angel Inn at Addington Green, West Malling.

For details call the pub on 01732 842117.

Ramble off the pounds with a circular walk

WORRIED about piling on the pounds over Christmas?

Start getting fit before the festivities with a good ramble in the fresh air around Bearsted. Walkers are welcome to join a five-and-a-half mile circular walk around the village on Sunday.

Ramblers should meet at Bearsted Station at 10am.

For more information call 01622 710782.

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE



AQUARIUS

(Jan 21 - Feb 19)

YOU could get lots of acclaim at work by conserving the company's resources. This is also a good time to hire extra help or invest in time saving machinery. A new group of people could make their way into your life. These friends could prompt you to expand your intellectual horizons. A female executive is poised to award you a plum position.



TAURUS

(Apr 21 - May 21)

YOUR creative juices are flowing fast and furious. If inspiration strikes, stop what you're doing and focus your intuitive insight on this bright new idea. An exciting new phase of your love life begins this week. Money could come your way. Save it to travel or study, as 2008 will be rife with opportunities to do both.



LEO

(July 24 - Aug 23)

PUTTING a little extra overtime can help your festive financial outgoings. You'll be in a better position to enjoy a romantic affair. Take care that you don't repeat past mistakes by showering expensive gifts on your amour. If this person truly cares for you, they won't demand expensive gifts and goodies.



SCORPIO

(Oct 24 - Nov 22)

HELP with an ethical matter will be forthcoming this week. Follow an older person's advice regarding a hostile situation. A new source of income could come your way. Don't let a romantic partner or child persuade you to cancel business plans. You've got to seal this deal now, while the client is still keen. Friendship could turn to romance.



PISCES

(Feb 20 - Mar 20)

AN exciting career opportunity could come your way. Although the prospect of assuming a powerful position is daunting, it's also exciting and energising. Don't let anxiety stop you accepting an impressive job offer. Celebrate your good fortune by taking a glamorous trip with your beloved. Snap up the objects of your desire this week.



GEMINI

(May 22 - Jun 22)

A NEW phase of a close partnership begins this week, but you'll feel torn between your personal and professional lives. You could get into a heated argument with someone who seems paralysed with indecision and you're tired of being kept in limbo by their indecision. Fortunately, friends and family are squarely behind you.



VIRGO

(Aug 24 - Sep 23)

FRIENDS can relieve you of dreaded chores in the countdown to Christmas so don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it. If you want to move or buy a new home, the next two weeks are ideal. Someone who is afraid that they can't move a property during the festive season may be anxious to cut you a deal.



SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23 - Dec 21)

REVAMPING your looks puts you in the mood for the holiday season. Don't be surprised if an important executive starts throwing admiring glances your way. Trying to talk sense to an irrational relative will prove an exercise in futility so postpone this until after Christmas. Exerting your iron will could result in a journey or a new venture.



ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr 20)

RETURNING to school or embarking on an extended trip will open new worlds for you. This is a mixed blessing as you're having so much fun at home. Still, you can't afford to pass up an opportunity like this. Fortunately, your friends and family are poised to give you a push. Look to them when you start feeling jittery.



CANCER

(Jun 23 - Jul 23)

IF IT has been difficult to broach a sensitive subject in the past this week brings a heaven sent opportunity to have a serious talk and get things sorted out before Christmas. A new job opportunity could fall into your lap and it may involve the chance to work from home or even give you a green light for starting your own business.



LIBRA

(Sep 24 - Oct 23)

YOU can be a real power behind the scenes this week. Resist the lure of the spotlight, as you'll make much more progress working in the wings. An erratic colleague could start getting on your nerves now so be sure to make your wants and wishes crystal clear. That way you won't be implicated in any mistakes they might make.



CAPRICORN

(Dec 22 - Jan 20)

JOINING forces with a partner over an ethical matter is wise. When the opposition sees they are outnumbered, they will take the honourable route. You may crave solitary pleasures over the next two weeks. This could prove problematic with Christmas on the horizon. You must set boundaries if you're going to find time for the activities you love.

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No14

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EASY

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

Last week's solutions

7	5	8	4	2	9	1	6	3
9	6	1	8	3	7	5	4	2
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PICK OF THE WEEKEND

BBC one

SATURDAY: STRICTLY COME DANCING (6pm): The pressure is on as the remaining celebrities compete for a place in the final. All that stands between them and the final are three routines, including an Argentine tango.

SUNDAY: ROBIN HOOD (4.05pm): As Robin joins the quest to unravel the coded clues leading to the mysterious Thesaurus Patriae, Marian decides to act alone in helping Locksley villagers.

BBC TWO

SATURDAY: THE CULTURE SHOW (6.10pm): The show's presenters look at the highlights of 2007, choosing their favourite moments.

SUNDAY: EARTH: THE POWER OF THE PLANET (7pm): Dr Iain Stewart travels to surfers' paradise Hawaii to learn more about oceans, explaining the difference between waves, tides and currents.

itv

SATURDAY: THE X-FACTOR FINAL (7.15pm): The remaining three acts are joined by judges Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Dannii Minogue and Louis Walsh.

SUNDAY: PARKINSON: THE FINAL CONVERSATION (9pm): The talk show host rounds off his career with a bumper helping of chat, including Peter Kay, Sir Michael Caine, Sir David Attenborough and Dame Judi Dench

4

SATURDAY: 100 GREATEST FUNNY MOMENTS (9.15pm): A selection of slip-ups, laughs, gaffes and forgotten gags from chat-shows, hidden camera stunts, internet viral attachments and stand-up comedy spots.

SUNDAY: ADDICTED TO PORN (11.25pm): Documentary examining the nature of porn addiction and its human costs, as well as exploring the growing evidence that the condition has a chemical basis.

five

SATURDAY: GREMLINS (5.45pm): Although Steven Spielberg ensures things don't get too nasty, this remains a wonderfully anarchic affair that is probably one of Hollywood's blackest mainstream hits.

SUNDAY: CLOSER (9pm): This all-star relationship drama follows a quartet of absurdly beautiful London urbanites.

I didn't want to be the next Ken Barlow

■ BY BEN FALK

THERE are plenty of ways to be killed off in a soap, but being bludgeoned to death with a spanner by your on-screen daughter is pretty final. Such was the fate of actor Thomas Craig, who played Coronation Street mechanic Tommy Harris, in 2005.

"The initial contract was six months and I did two and a half years," says the 44-year-old, who obviously holds no grudges. "It was their decision."

In fact, dying was something of a release for Thomas who admits that he never wanted to be a long-standing cast member. "Who wants to be Ken Barlow?" he says.

It gave the father-of-two the impetus to move onto other projects, notably the new series of Blue Murder, in which he stars opposite Caroline Quentin's homely detective as a corrupt football agent.

"There's only half a dozen scenes, but it was a nice part," he says, from the backseat of a London cab, where he is on his way (and late thanks to terrible traffic) to pick up his children from school. He concedes he can't remember much of what he did in the show, other than "put on a nice suit and slick my hair", since he filmed the programme back in May.

"He represents a young footballer who gets murdered," he continues. "He's in the mix, because he's caught out lying to the police."

One suspects Thomas partly said yes because the role gave him a chance to talk about football, something he is more than



MOVING ON: Thomas Craig has no regrets about leaving Coronation Street after two and a half years

passionate about. Like his Corrie alter ego, he is a lifelong Sheffield Wednesday fan and tries to get to most games.

"I've got two kids now, so I've got to pick and choose my games," he says. In fact, although he acknowledges they are too young to fully comprehend the nature of fandom, he has been trying to slip a Wednesday shirt on them from time to time. "But my missus takes them off and tells me not to be stupid!"

Although he never played to a competitive level, Thomas has indulged a fantasy to compete professionally courtesy of Sky's reality show, The Match, in which he has taken part for the last three years. "I played

centre half," he remembers, proudly. "It was fantastic – 52,000 people at St James's Park."

While he may not have had the skill or pace to make it in footie, Thomas is enjoying an enviable career as an actor and doesn't regret his decision to quit his previous job as a plumber.

"I just got interested in it when I was about 19 or 20," he recalls. "I got involved in proper classes. The guy there said 'do you fancy drama school?' and I said yeah."

He went to the Academy Of Live And Recording Arts in London and after a three-year course found his way into the business as a supporting actor in shows like The Paradise Club, Casualty and Where The Heart Is. "My family thought I was crackers," he says. "Until I started appearing on TV, they didn't get it."

"I've always had a career where I work and then I don't work," he explains matter-of-factly. "It feels like I'm not successful, but I've just been out in Canada for four months doing a TV show out there (the forthcoming Murdoch Mysteries). I've not worked for a month and now I feel like I'll never work again!"

Now is concentrating on the future and is particularly excited about the Canadian show, in which he plays a police chief. The programme is made by the people behind The State Within and will broadcast over there, before probably transferring to UKTV Drama next year.

He's also looking forward to Christmas, which means a lot to him. "The last two Christmases I've done panto," he says. "But I'm not doing one this year, because I've not had a proper family Christmas for the past two years. This year it's going to be good."



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A VIDEO diary posted this week by aspiring singer Laura Warwick proves it's not just gig footage that gets catches fans' interest.

Admitting "I can be a bit goofy at times" Laura lets her hair down in an un-staged personal look at the recording process, bum notes and all.

Performing is obviously in her blood; her great uncles are none other than Ray and Dave Davies from the Kinks, but she says she is not in contact with them and "nor are they any sort of stepping stone to stardom... unfortunately."

Currently involved in a number of projects, from soul to hip hop Laura is working with several musicians from both sides of the Atlantic.

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LIVE AND LOUD



THE KINGSDOWN BAND: A broad range of music, from 60s classics through to current chart hits. This is the band at the Faversham Hop Festival earlier this year.



GORDON GILTRAP: Classical guitarist plays over video of UK amateur champion ballroom and latin dancers, Ian Sharpe and Victoria Lawrence, from Thanet, dancing to one of his songs.



LAURA WARWICK: Jazz and soul singer's studio diary, shot during the recording of her latest song Paradise, provides a snapshot of Laura at work in the studio.



BEN MILLS: Local lad performs 'Crazy Train' at an impromptu gig. The X-factor runner-up has postponed his UK tour due to recording commitments, and a new album is planned for 2008.



TIM POLLEY AND ROD DEXTER: Clip of Whitstable songwriters' show *Been There Street*, with 17 songs, a seven-piece band, four singers, two narrators and a technical crew of four.



TURNSTYLE: Maidstone band have been together for nearly 10 years and bring years of experience to the stage, playing at functions across London and the South East.

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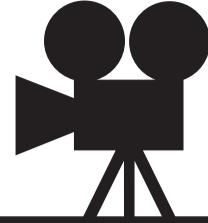
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Frank Falencyzk loves his job. He just happens to be a hitman for his Polish mob family in Buffalo, New York. But Frank's got a drinking problem and when he messes up a crucial assignment that puts his family business in peril, his uncle sends him to San Francisco to clean up his act.

HE WAS A QUIET MAN (15)



Bob Maconel is about to have a bad day. On this particularly bad day, Bob crosses the line from potential killer to inadvertent hero and in the process saves Vanessa's life. This invisible nobody saves the object of his desire, only to have her ask him to end her life.

CODE NAME: THE CLEANER (PG)



Cedric the Entertainer plays Jake, a seemingly regular guy who has no idea who he is after being hit over the head by mysterious assailants. When he finds himself entangled in a government conspiracy, Jake and his pursuers become convinced he is an undercover agent.

Star reveals secrets of a golden world

■ BY BEN FALK

IT'S a film based on a controversial but much-loved book trilogy – with a young hero on a quest helped by brave souls in a world full of darkness, magic and mystical creatures.

If this all sounds very Lord Of The Rings, it's because New Line Cinema, the company which wagered its fortunes on the film version of Tolkien's classic tomes, is doing the same again with a spectacular adaptation of the first novel in Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials series.

The Golden Compass is rumoured to be the most expensive movie ever made, with an estimated budget of more than £120 million.

It stars Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, but the story really rests on the shoulders of a 13-year-old newcomer called Dakota Blue Richards, who plays Lyra Belacqua, a precocious child who finds herself caught up in a mystery of epic proportions.

"I hope it doesn't affect my normal life too much," says the young actress, who lives in Brighton, Sussex. "Whenever I'm not in work, I'm back in school and just a normal pupil. I'd hate for the people at school to see me differently because of the film."

She might not have much of a choice. Already expected to be this year's major blockbuster, The Golden Compass is being presented as the first chapter in a three-part franchise, capitalising on the popularity of the books.

The novels are known for their complex themes, as well as their supposed anti-Catholic bias, which makes summing up the plot rather tricky.

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

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In short, we are introduced to Lyra who lives in an alternative version of our world, she witnesses some shady behaviour by clerical body the Magisterium, meets her uncle Lord Asriel (Craig), befriends then evades the cold and calculating Mrs Coulter (Kidman), before heading north to rescue her friend Roger, who has been kidnapped by... well, you'll just have to see it to find out.

Making the journey more interesting are the various beasts she encounters along the way.

Not only does she enlist the help of a talking armoured bear (voiced by Sir Ian McKellen), but one of the conceits of the story is that in this universe, every person has their own demon, which is a physical manifestation of their personality or soul, in animal form.

Lord Asriel is a dark horse. Though dashing



NEWCOMER: Teenager Dakota Blue Richards, stars in the new fantasy film The Golden Compass

and mercurial, the twists and turns of the plot mean you are never quite sure of his intentions. And for Daniel, basking in the success of his first outing as Bond in Casino Royale, there were no qualms about plunging into another recurring role.

"It didn't bother me at all," he says. "That sounds like I have some grand plan, but it wasn't like that. It was a happy accident that it came up."

The father-of-one also revelled in sharing the screen with a raw youngster. "I get a big kick out of it," he explains. "You've got to work very hard and keep them enthused because it's a long day and the kids' energy levels go down. Dakota learned very quickly though and I teased her a lot."

THE GOLDEN COMPASS
Certificate PG

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Clarkes decide it's time to sit back and relax

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

A FAMILY business that has been running for more than 75 years is being sold to a leading Kent-based furniture store.

After many years of happy trading the Clarke family decided it was time to hang up their sales jackets and sell Clarkes Furnishings to Lenleys of Canterbury.

The business, which was set up and run by members of the Clarke family since its launch in the 1930s, had been passed down through two generations.

But it was now felt by managing director Richard Clarke that it was time to sell the business, retire and relax.

The furniture store in Sandling Road, Maidstone, exchanged hands at the start of this month.

Established

Lenleys is also a family-run business, established in the 1930s and run by the second generation of the family.

Mr Clarke said: "Our family has been honoured and proud to have served our customers and we will miss them as well as our many friends in the trade.

"Lenleys is a business very similar to ours – we know they will continue to take the same care of our customers and staff. We are pleased we are able to sell to a company who will retain Clarkes individuality."

Jonathan Watts, managing director of Lenleys, said: "We are delighted to have bought Clarkes – it's a fantastic business.

"I can assure both regular and new customers that Clarkes and Lenleys



CHANGING HANDS? Clarkes Furnishers has been bought out by Lenleys of Canterbury

reputation for good value, quality and great service will continue to be the priority, and the store will continue to trade as Clarkes Furnishings."

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Medway Campus, Rowan Williams Court, 30 Pembroke Court, Chatham Maritime. Wednesday 19th December 2007.

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SELLING UP: (l-r) Clarkes Furnishers directors Richard Clarke and Chris Clarke, with new owners Jonathan Watts and sister Janine Greenfield of Lenleys of Canterbury, which has bought the family-run business which first opened in the 1930s

dover calais

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Celebrate Christmas in Calais

■ BY NICK AMES AND MARIJKE COX

A CONTINENTAL Christmas is just an hour away as Calais celebrates a joyeux noel with festive wine, food and fun.

One of Europe's largest roller coasters forms the centrepiece of the celebrations which have transformed the town over the holiday season.

It was put up on December 1 and is open until January 6, it is in position outside the historic town hall.

A Christmas parade took place at the weekend, which marked the latest stage in the festivities which commenced on the last day of November, when the Christmas lights were switched on.

Starting at the Place Crevecoeur and finishing in the Place d'Armes, spectators watched a fire and light show as gypsy horsemen galloped by and traditional music played.

Refreshments were provided at the finale with the local delicious chicken soup – a speciality of the nearby village of Licques – top of the menu.

The last few days have also seen a spectacular circus called Zavata come to the town, which featured clowns, jugglers and other performers.

A special children's village opens on Saturday, which is created out of timber. Attractions include a roundabout, fishing for ducks and a skittle alley. There is also a crèche for younger children.

Also, from Saturday a 'land train' will take visitors across the town and drop them off at



DELIGHTFUL: The Christmas market at Calais has become a great festive day out

various attractions. And for those with romance in mind, a horse drawn carriage is another option to see the sights.

A spokesman for the town said: "This is the biggest Christmas extravaganza we have ever seen in Calais. We are really looking forward to welcoming our English friends and showing what we have to offer.

"For a long time, Calais has been associated with a quick trip across to bring back wine and beer – but there is so much more here. There is history, the local countryside and some very smart restaurants, bars and hotels.

"We also have a huge range of shops selling

the best of local produce – meats, cheeses, wines and handicrafts.

"This is our opportunity to showcase what we have to offer and give people the chance to appreciate a truly French Christmas just an hour away from the shores of England."

In France, Christmas is a time for family and for generosity, marked by family reunions, gifts and candy for children, gifts for the poor, Midnight Mass, and le Réveillon.

In northern France, the Christmas season begins on 6 December, la fête de Saint Nicolas.

The country also has its own unique Christmas traditions.

French children put their shoes in front of the fireplace, in the hopes that Père Noël will fill them with gifts. Candy, fruit, nuts, and small toys will also be hung on the tree overnight.

In 1962, a law was passed decreeing that all letters written to Santa would be replied to with a postcard. When a class writes a letter, each student gets a response.

And this being France, food is very much on the menu, with traditional turkeys and goose featuring as the main course, with the local puree crab a particular Calais delight.

Delicious desserts include La bûche de Noël (Yule log), made of chocolate and chestnuts. It represents the special wood log burned from Christmas Eve to New Year's Day in the Périgord, which is a holdover from a pagan Gaul celebration.

Also popular is La Galette des Rois (on Epiphany) – a round cake which is cut into pieces and distributed by a child, known as le petit roi or l'enfant soleil, hiding under the table. Whoever finds la fève – the charm hidden inside – is king or queen and can choose a partner.



FESTIVE FAYRE: Calais Christmas Extravaganza

Fact File: Calais

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Currency	Euros approx 1.425 to £1 (rate varies)
Region	Nord Pas de Calais
Language	French
Religion	Roman Catholic majority
Climate	Temperate

Visit details

You can get to Calais direct from Dover with P&O Ferries, or SeaFrance. Crossing times are around 90 minutes and foot passengers can take the free bus straight into the centre of the town. Norfolkline sails from Dover to Dunkerque, which has its own Christmas programme but Calais is short drive along the coast.

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24yr old single mother of 2, very bubbly and fun to be with, looking for happy-go-lucky guy to show me a good time. Box 432026

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TAKE HEART

Crystal, 24, Brunette, blue eyes, petite, likes music, art, films, swimming, country walks, WLTM friendly guy for friendship maybe more. Box 43236

TP

LIVELY UP YOURSELF

Lively female, 26, 5'2", brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

TP

LOVE TO LAUGH

Full-time mum, 26, loves pubs, clubs, cinema, days out, GSOH, likes socialising, relaxing, looking for honest, loyal, fun, romantic person who's a N/S. Box 900347

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Confident female, 28, 5'8", medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, into most things in life, seeks genuine guy for friendship and more. Box 434229

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MAJESTIC IN MARGATE

Single mum, 29, 5'11", brown hair/blue eyes. I'm new to Margate, and I'm looking for a guy with a GSOH. I enjoy going out, socialising etc. Box 431105

TP

HONESTY & HUMOUR PLEASE!

Attractive female, 29, size 8-10, 5'8", long hair/blue eyes, enjoys gym, cinema, dancing, seeking honest, reliable male 27-38 with a GSOH, for friendship possibly LTR. Box 410494

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BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Black, beautiful, curvy, single mum, 31, enjoys outdoors, cooking, home-life, cosy nights in, eating out, cinema looking for tall, sincere gentleman for friendship/relationship. Box 432283

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ANIMAL LOVER

Honest, loyal, caring lady, 32, hard-working, 5'8", medium build, likes eating out, spending time with friends/family, meeting new people, going to new places, seeking genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 432586

TP

HEART & SOUL

Sincere female, 32, 5'12", blonde, blue eyes, female lady, enjoys clubbing, cinema, cooking, animals, seeks like minded male for friendship/relationship. Box 433214

TP

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384014

TP

DRIVE ME CRAZY

Creative, happy, loving female, 32, 5ft, blonde/blue eyes, seeks kind, warm, sincere, patient male, with a car, to share my life with. Box 392354

TP

SWEET CAROLINE

Caroline, 32, 5'10", brown hair, likes going out, having fun, cinema, seeks outgoing male for friendship and more. Box 430833

TP

RESUCE ME

Mum of 2 boys, 32, GSOH, easygoing, seeking an honest, genuine man. Get in touch soon x Box 432066

TP

DESERPATELY SEEKING SUSAN?

Susan, 33, long hair, hazel eyes, tanned, enjoys the usual things in life, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 429879

TP

RING MY BELLE!

Hi, I'm Annabelle, 32, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, divorced, 2 children, WLTM a tall, local man, enjoys sport, shopping and relaxing. Tonbridge. Box 420609

TP

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, would like to meet someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out, cinema. Box 406670

TP

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

African lady, 33, brown eyes, likes socialising, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male for friendship and more. Box 413128

TP

LESSONS IN LOVE

Loving, caring, black African female, 33, school teacher, WLTM caring, honest, loving, open, professional man, 35-50 with good values in life, for something meaningful. Box 422460

TP

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 39, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, seeking, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 428626

TP

TRY NEW THINGS

Mum of 1, I'm 5'4", blonde hair, slim, young looking, 34yrs old. I'm caring, honest, with a GSOH. I like keep-fit, cinema, dancing, days out. Box 431559

TP

RU THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'11", brown hair/eyes, East Peckham, nr Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship/more. Box 433107

TP

YOURS FOREVER!

Active, affectionate female, 35, 5ft3, blonde, blue eyes, likes cinema, walking, cycling, swimming, WLTM tall & handsome bloke. Box 430932

TP

TRUST MATTERS

Independent, professional female, 35, 5'7", fit, GSOH, enjoys travelling, cinema, looking for a like-minded, honest and loyal male to share life with. Box 901711

TP

NEVER SAY NEVER

Decent 36yr old female, medium build, fair hair, 5'6", likes cinema, eating & having fun, seeks like-minded male, 36-40, for friendship first. Box 739664

TP

NOT FOOTBALL CRAZY

Divorced, affectionate lady, 40, large build, 5'6", love staying in, cinema, looking for a thoughtful male to share good things in life, leading to LTR. Box 430332

TP

LOVE TO MEET YOU

Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun female. Aylesford Box 428464

TP

TAKE A CHANCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

TP

FOOTBALL FANATIC

De-based lady, 43, divorced, blonde, green eyes, 5'10", likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

TP

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, writing, seeks same male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

TP

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, size 10, loves beach walks, animals, DIY, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S to share things with. Box 429882

TP

STOP PRESS!

Friendly, N/S female, 44, medium build, long hair, WLTM N/S male, 44-55, for longer, possible relationship. Ramsgate. Box 433256

TP

A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Single parent of 4 kids, 35, 5'6", brown hair with blue eyes, looking for friendly guy for friendship and maybe more. Box 900447

TP

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum; 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930

TP

NICE SMILE???

Single 36yr old female, like most things in life, very loving and caring, 5'5", cuddly build, good personality, seeking a gentle guy for friendship and maybe more. Box 426617

TP

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

TP

COULD IT BE MAGIC?

Single mum of 2, 37, caring and loving, 5'4", slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys most things in life. Box 898868

TP

NEW TO THE AREA

Happy, bubbly, positive female, 37 years old, outgoing, loving, caring, loyal, quite spiritual, into dance music, trance, cooking, the countryside, looking for soul mate. Box 435358

TP

HOPING FOR MORE

36yr old single lady, long blonde hair, big blue eyes, slim, 5'7", looking for a guy who's caring, honest, for TLC and maybe more. Box 902011

TP

THE FULL TREATMENT

36yr old nurse, enjoys fun and laughter, travel, nights in/out, music, dancing, reading, theatre. Seeking man for company, maybe more. East Kent Box 912176

TP

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, with curves, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks exciting, fun male for friendship/relationship. Box 901893

TP

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births deaths marriages

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 TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040

BIRTHS

BASTABLE

Steve and Vicki celebrate the birth of their daughter Libby Isabelle on 25th November at home in Deal. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

BENNETT

Dan and Nicola of Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter, Phoebe Elizabeth Lucy Bennett on 2nd December 2007. A new baby sister for Millie.

BIRTWELL

Summer Louise Birtwell was born on the 21st November 2007. Daughter to Emma Clapson and Paul Birtwell. Little sister to Jake.

BONES

Billy born on 11th November 2007, Weighing 7lb 4oz. Son to Christopher and Lynda Bones in Broadstairs.

COLE

Bethanie born on 20th November 2007, weighing 8lb 11oz. Daughter to Anneliese Hay and Richard Cole in Margate.

DALE

Libby born on 22nd November 2007, weighing 7lb 9oz. Daughter to Andrew and Karen Dale of Sandwich.

DI LERNIA

Rino and Anna of Herne Bay are very delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Giulia Di Lernia, on 1st December 2007. A new baby sister for Liam.

DIGBY

Mark and Emma Digby of Pembury celebrate the birth of their son Daniel James Digby on 21st November 2007.

DOBSON

To Michael and Laura of Herne Bay a beautiful daughter, Millie Summer Doreen Dobson, born on 29th November 2007.

DRAPER

Richard and Michelle are delighted to announce the birth of their son Charles Richard Thomas on 19th November 2007. A brother for Grace.

EASTWOOD

Rachel and Timothy of Staple celebrate the birth of their son Samuel William on 22nd November 2007.

FORD

To Mark and Lorayne of Herne Bay a beautiful daughter, Emily Beatrice, born on 14th November 2007. A new baby sister for Jamie.

GIBB

Joshua born on 11th November 2007, weighing 6lbs 11oz. Son to Kevin and Rina in Gravesend.

GRAY

Nick, Charlotte and Mia celebrate the birth of Eva Siena born on 20th November 2007 weighing 7lb 5oz.

HADAWAY WEST

Hannah and James are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Poppy Sufia born on 7th November 2007 at Pembury Hospital weighing 6lb 15oz.

HAYES-GOLDFINCH

Suzanna Bailey and Jamie Hayes-Goldfinch of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Joseph Hayes-Goldfinch on 20th November 2007.

HAYES-GOLDFINCH

Suzanna Bailey and Jamie Hayes-Goldfinch of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son Joseph Hayes-Goldfinch on 20th November 2007.

HEARN

Lois Lee Hearn born on the 24th November 2007, weighing 6lbs 3.5oz daughter to Georgia and Lee of Ashford.

HIBBETT

Lesley Joy born on 23rd November 2007, weighing 7lb 1oz. Daughter of Stephen and Tracey Hibbett at Pembury Hospital.

HUMPHREY

Amy Grace born on the 12th November 2007. Daughter of John and Louise of Lenham. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

JEFFORD-LEACH

The most precious gift of a daughter born to Tammy and Billy on 16th November 2007.

KERRIGAN

Jimmy and Maxine of Whitstable are proud to announce the birth of their second son, Rian Thomas James, on 23rd November 2007. A new baby brother for Fionn.

LANGMAID

Neil and Tamsin of Faversham are proud to announce the birth of their son, Finn Isaac Langmaid, on 20th November 2007. Finn weighed 6lb 7oz.

LAW

Rod Law and Emma Dyer of Tenterden celebrate the birth of their son Harry on the 23rd November 2007, weighing 10lb 11oz.

LEE

Caroline and Hyunho celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Eleanor Maria on 23rd November 2007. A baby sister to Alex.

LUKEHURST

Ali and Nick of Dover are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Isobel Enid, on 21st November 2007. Isobel weighed 9lb 8oz.

MOORE-VALENTINE

Crystal born on 20th November 2007, weighing 6lbs 6oz. Daughter to Stacy and Harry in Margate. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

MORGAN

Darren and Toni are delighted to announce the birth of their gorgeous little boy Leighton John on 21st November 2007 weighing 7lb 4oz.

ROBERTS

Henry born on 1st December 2007, weighing 8lbs 8oz. Son to Simon and Jane Roberts of Kings Hill.

SALTER

Paula and Justin are delighted to announce the birth of their son Harry-Jay on 4th December 2007 weighing 9lb 9oz. A brother for Chelsea and Tamzin.

SHERRING

Owen and Maria of Edenbridge are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful baby

daughter Leilah-Mae Elizabeth on the 5th November 2007 weighing 7lb 4oz, sister to Annabel.

SMITH

Jeremy and Sarah of Ash are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Evie Elizabeth, on 26th October 2007.

TAYLOR

Grace and Ross celebrate the birth of Bodhi Jason Taylor on the 23rd November 2007.

THWAITES

George born on the 22nd November 2007, weighing 6lb 12oz. Son to Shelley and George Thwaites in Ramsgate.

VLASAK

Danny and Julia are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Lydia Grace Magdalena, born on the 1st December 2007 weighing 9lb 10z. Sister to Hannah and Sophie.

DROWLEY

Thelma Drowley passed away peacefully on 2nd December 2007 after a long illness. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service will take place at Charing Crematorium on Friday 14th December at 12.40 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Demelza House Childrens Hospice Appeal c/o High and Sons 1 Bayford Road Sittingbourne Tel 01795 472958.

MARRIAGES

HALEY ALDERTON AND JAY LEADER

The marriage took place on Saturday 08 December 2007 at Shorncliffe House, Folkestone.

DEATHS

BANCE

Connie Bance formerly of East Malling passed away peacefully on 26th November 2007 aged 77.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: The Old Rectory, Farleigh Lane, Maidstone Applicant: Mrs Susan Lee

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford Head of Registration, Regulatory Services First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



Martin Alford Head of Registration, Regulatory Services First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Martin Alford Head of Registration, Regulatory Services First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

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Martin Alford Head



PROPERTY NEWS

Agents join forces to help homeless

THE UK's estate agency industry is aiming to eradicate homelessness as it launches a new charitable organisation – the Estate Agency Foundation.

Homelessness continues to be a serious problem in the UK.

In 2006, 173,000 households were declared as homeless or living in unacceptable conditions. Meanwhile, on any one night there are about 700 rough sleepers on UK streets.

Peter Knight, chairman of Estate Agency Events, which founded the new body, said: "We desperately need to go right back to the roots of homelessness and work at eliminating the causes as well as helping those who are homeless.

This will take considerable resources, but I believe that by working as a collective we have a real opportunity to make changes."

Couples prove to be the most desirable

COUPLES are regarded as the most desirable tenants for landlords in the property investment sector, according to recent findings by the Mortgage Trust.

The survey also noted a sharp increase in the number of landlords looking to let to corporate tenants. This group is now being targeted by 27 per cent of landlords, compared with just 14.4 per cent in January.

Both groups are regarded as least likely to default on repayments.

Base rate reduction benefits customers

FOLLOWING last week's changes to the Bank of England base rate, the Co-operative Bank will be passing on the full benefit of the base rate reduction to its mortgage customers by cutting its standard variable rate (SVR) by 0.25 per cent to 7.49 per cent, with effect from January 1.

The Co-operative Bank also calculates interest on a daily basis and, unlike some other lenders, does not impose Higher Lending Charges (HLCs) on any products. For more details, visit www.co-operativebank.co.uk/mortgages.



DON'T DO IT: Tacky, over-the-top exterior decorations will spoil the first impression made by your house and can seriously impair the chances of a sale

Don't hide your home behind tacky decorations

HOMEOWNERS looking to sell up this festive season should turn off the Christmas lights if they want to turn on the housing market.

According to recent research by industry analysts propertyfinder.com, many would-be sellers ruin the appeal of their homes with over-the-top exterior seasonal decorations.

A massive 76 percent of home seekers said they would be put off buying a house which was over enthusiastically decorated while 36 percent even said they would be put off buying a home if a nearby one was treated in the same way.

Only broken down vehicles outside the property were rated as more off putting.

Warren Bright, chief executive of the influential market experts, said: "Buying a home is

■ BY NICK AMES

an emotive process, so first impressions are everything. An unappealing exterior definitely puts off buyers.

"At this time of year overenthusiastic adornment of properties is a real problem so sellers should beware.

"Outdoor Christmas lights are perceived as tacky and can cause prospective buyers to be put off the property – or even the whole area."

The survey found eight times as many people were worried about ostentatious exterior decorations as were worried about the interior.

However with the number of sellers expected to outweigh buyers in the coming weeks, the advice is to keep your interiors in pristine condition and ensure that any decorations you

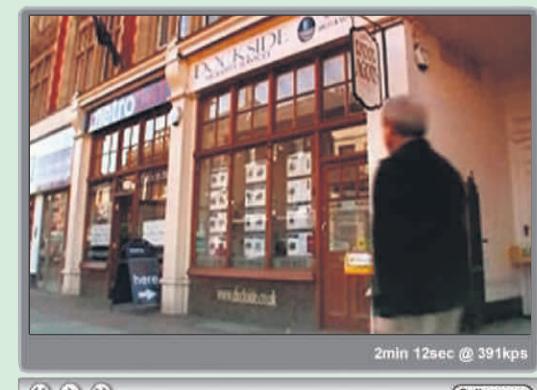
do put up are in keeping with the style of your home.

Mr Bright said: "Competition among sellers is going to be rife over the next couple of months and my top tip is to avoid bold statements. Prospective buyers like to see a neutral décor on which they could stamp their own identity. Christmas is no exception to this rule and decking your home with colourful flashing lights and tinsel is a big no."

"If you have a period property opt for traditional decorations in warm colours such as reds and golds, a modern home can accommodate sharper lines and cooler colours such as silver and blue. If you have a warehouse flat you should go for minimal decorations."

"Sellers need to know what type of buyer their property would appeal to and tailor their Christmas decorations accordingly."

WITH CHRISTMAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, DISCOVER HOW THE COUNTY'S HOMES MARKET IS DOING @yourkenttv.co.uk



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Picture labelled as 20 North Crescent



DOWNSWOOD, £395PCM, PF
Studio apartment, easy access of TC, fully fitted kitchen, communal garden, parking, Available Now
Picture labelled as 53 Longham Copse



SOUTH MAIDSTONE, £545PCM, UF
2 bed semi, near town centre, lounge/dining room, 2 double bedrooms, garden, Available Now
Picture labelled as 2 Farleigh Leigh



TOWN CENTRE, £750PCM, UF
2 bed newly built lux apt, walking distance of TC, spacious lounge, balcony, parking, Available Now
Picture labelled as Iconica



TOWN CENTRE, £975PCM, UF
2 bed lux apt, walking distance of TC, riverview, ensuite, garage, balcony, Available Now
Picture labelled as Riverside Plaza

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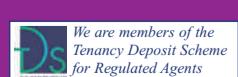
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Jones Homes are part of the Emerson Group. For more information about any of our developments please contact us. www.jones-homes.co.uk Jones Homes Southern 01322 665000. Pictured (top left) Exterior of The Connaught at Regents Place. (Middle left) Exterior of Chatsworth Strand. (Middle right) Interior picture of a show home. Bottom: Interior picture of the show home at Regents Place.

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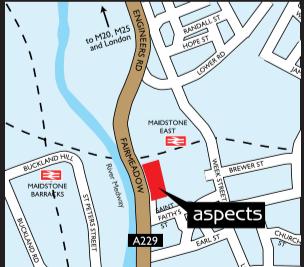
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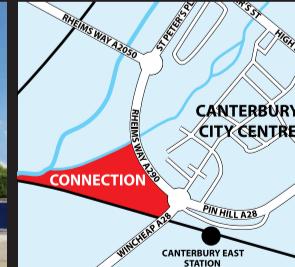
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MOTORS NEWS



Chrysler dealer's offer of All-Star Weekends

DUTTON Forshaw Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge at Broad Oak Road, Canterbury is running a test drive promotion that could win one lucky motorist a car worth up to £30,000.

All-Star Weekends runs until December 31 and dealer principal Lynne Kennard said it highlighted a wide range of cars sold by the dealership.

"From MPVs (pictured – Chrysler PT Cruiser), family saloons and executive estates to compact SUVs and full-size 4x4s," she said.

Lynne added that savings of up to £2,000 are available on some models, while a day's free off-roading and driver training is on offer to anyone buying a car from her dealership this weekend.



'New Jaguar' styling now given to X-Type

A RADICAL new mid range Jaguar, the XF model arriving in the spring, has meant some re-working for other models in the line-up.

The big XJ saloon has already had some tweaks and now it is the turn of the baby of the range, the X-Type saloon and estate.

The 2008 version has a bold single mesh grille plus new bumper and lower air intakes and an uprated interior, plus the new option to twin the acclaimed 2.2-litre diesel with a six-speed auto gearbox.



Insignia is new face of Vauxhall's old favourite

VAUXHALL has released the above picture to build interest ahead of replacing the Vectra next summer and renaming it Insignia.

The new label will also be packaged with a move upmarket for this key model, recognising that Vauxhall must now do battle with German executive cars as well as fending off its old sparring partner, the Ford Mondeo. Ominously, Ford has already taken the same step with the all-new Mondeo launched to acclaim and booming sales earlier in 2007.



GROWING UP FAST: Despite being launched only three years ago the Picanto is Kia's oldest car and has been given a makeover putting it at the forefront of value and reliability

Picanto makeover shows Kia has high ambitions

KIA'S Picanto city car star highlights how far and fast the brand has come in a few years.

It is now the ambitious Korean marque's oldest car – despite being launched only three years ago.

Nevertheless, it has had a midlife makeover to keep it at the forefront of affordable and reliable motoring and prices still start at just £5,995.

But there are plenty of changes, most noticeable being frontal tweaks making it more rounded and less twee than before: new wings and bumper, bigger headlamps and wider grille – the corporate grin already worn by Ceed and Carens models.

The interior was always robust and logical, but now has better materials and design, with a smart new steering wheel and integrated CD/MP3 system being tactile reminders of the quality hike.

Model designations have been jazzed up too with Ice (from £6,995) as the trendy label for what should be the best-selling trim and, as the name suggests, the threshold for standard-fit air con.

ROAD TEST

KIA PICANTO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

This model was chosen for the new-look car's debut – the 'base' Picanto, Picanto 2 (from £6,795) and Picanto 3 flagship (£7,995) are not with us until January – and looks unbeatable at the price for driving quality and economy with five doors plus decent spec with air-conditioning.

Despite compact dimensions and, therefore, a necessarily short wheelbase, the Picanto delivers a decent ride and drive.

With just 64bhp from the mainstay 1.1-litre engine, it is never going to be a ball of fire – it takes 15 seconds to hit 60mph – but the car's average of 50-plus mpg is far more relevant in this class.

Those seeking even better economy will be interested in the January's £5,995 entry model; the Picanto pure and simple has a 61bhp 1.0-litre engine capable of averaging nearly 60mpg and runs on smaller 13-inch wheels for lower rolling resistance.

With further weight-saving measures such as having just four seats, this has brought that model's emissions down to just 117gms/km – good enough to get into the vehicle excise duty band-B and qualify for exemption under proposed London congestion charge revisions.



**SEE STEVE LOADER
TEST DRIVE KIA'S
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OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT TO BUY	£4,303 [‡]	TOTAL AMOUNT TO PAY INC OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT TO BUY	£10,157.32	
AMOUNT FINANCED	£8,716	MILES PER ANNUM	6000	

*INCLUDING £120 COMPULSORY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE. EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGES 5.92p PER MILE.

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FINANCE MATRIX APPLIES TO THE 107 URBAN MOVE 1.0 LITRE

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ON THE ROAD PRICE	£7,241*	PASSPORT PRICE [†]	£7,241	
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT TO BUY	£3,050 [‡]	TOTAL AMOUNT TO PAY INC OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT TO BUY	£9,181.84	
AMOUNT FINANCED	£6,642	MILES PER ANNUM	6000	

*INCLUDING £120 COMPULSORY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE. EXCESS MILEAGE CHARGES 4.37p PER MILE.



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*Typical 5.9% APR applies to selected 207 models. Offers subject to status. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Written quotations available on request from the dealer address above and Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. [†]This payment does not have to be made if you choose to hand your car back to Peugeot. Prices, offers and information correct at time of going to press. Offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered from 03/12/07 until such point as they may be withdrawn by the above dealer at its discretion. Offers subject to availability. [‡]Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 month's Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £50.00 Government First Registration Fee and apply to 107 Urban Move 1.0 Litre Hatch 3 dr and 207 m:play 1.4 8V 75 Hatch 3dr and 308 Sport 1.6 VTi 120 Hatch 5dr. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only. (PEUG13100)

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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FORD GALAXY



IF Renault's Espace distilled the essence of the people carrier, Ford mass-produced it. The 1995 vintage Galaxy and its cloned sisters, the VW Sharan and Seat Alhambra, sold in big numbers helped by a combination of style, space and car-like handling. The fact that the Ford soldiered on for 11 years, helped by a superb makeover in 2000, is a tribute to the design. Reliability on early examples is increasingly flaky so post-2000 diesels are the pick of the used crop.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CHRYSLER VOYAGER



COMMERCIAL and private buyers have made the Voyager a big hit for Chrysler in the UK. All versions seat seven, but there is more demand for the extra luggage space of 13-inch longer 'Grand' models and those featuring Stow 'n' Go: underfloor stowage that also takes the folded seats. The smooth and powerful post-2004 diesel auto is the powertrain to go for. The Voyager rides comfortably, but bulk, small wheels and vague steering make for a dull drive.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA SEDONA



NEVER mind the quality, feel the width describes the Kia Sedona (1999-2006). Replaced by a more sophisticated model, the original is a cheap, reliable and capacious used buy though the interior is tacky, safety features were not up with rivals and it feels lumpy on rural roads while excelling as a comfy motorway muncher. The post-2002 125bhp diesel is the engine to go for if the budget will stretch. Sliding rear doors and a big tailgate make access easy.

STAR QUALITY

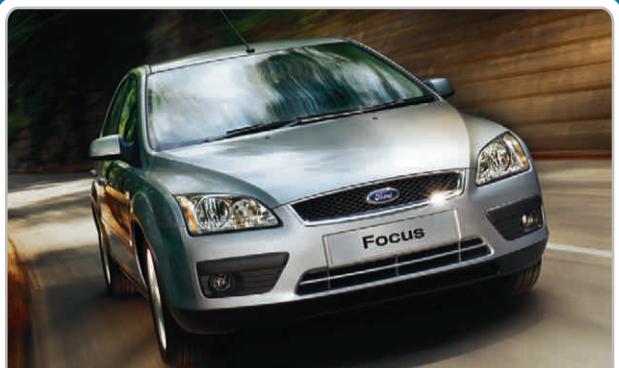
Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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FORD FIESTA STYLE 1.4i £5495.00
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FORD MONDEO LX 2.0TDI £6995.00

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FORD FOCUS LX 1.8 TDCi 115PS £9495.00

06/06, 20000 Miles Moondust Silver, 5 door Hatchback Diesel, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Euro4 engine, low emissions.

FORD FOCUS 1.6i ZETEC CLIMATE £8995.00

07/56, 21000 Miles Panther Black, 5 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Air Bags, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, One Owner, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Sports Pack, heated front screen.

FORD FOCUS LX 1.6 TDci ESTATE NEW MODEL £8695.00

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FORD FOCUS LX 1.6i AUTOMATIC NEW MODEL £7295.00

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FORD FOCUS LX 1.6i AUTOMATIC NEW MODEL £7295.00

05/55, 34000 Miles Machine Silver, 5 door Hatchback Diesel, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Multiple Air-bags.

FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V NEW MODEL £6995.00

05/55, 39000 Miles Sea Grey Metallic, 5 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Multiple Air-bags.

FORD FOCUS 1.6i 16V NEW MODEL £6995.00

05/55, 39000 Miles Sea Grey Metallic, 5 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Multiple Air-bags.

FORD FOCUS 1.6i LTD EDTN £5495.00

04/04, 28000 Miles Radiant Red, 3 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Multiple Air-bags, heated front screen, front fog lights.

FORD FIESTA 1.4i ZETEC £5495.00

05/54, 32700 Miles Moondust Silver 3 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 12 Months Mot, Multiple Air-bags.

FORD FIESTA 1.4i CLIMATE £5995.00

05/05, 35000 Miles Moondust Silver, 5 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, One Owner, Service History, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo.

KIA CARENS LX 2.0 CRDI £4995.00

04/04, 37000 Miles Blue Metallic, 5 door Hatchback Diesel, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Load & rear Guard cover.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER ES 1.8i 16V £4695.00

00/00, 52000 Miles Copper Bronze Metallic, 3 door 4x4, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Air Bags, Sunroof, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Load & rear Guard cover.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS 2.5i V6 £4495.00

2001/01, 61500 Miles Blue Metallic, 5 door 4x4, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Roof rails & roll bar, Load cover, removable roof, Twin glass sun roofs, traction control/hill decent brake, tinted windows, 5-seater.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER GS 2.5i V6 £4495.00

2001/01, 61500 Miles Blue Metallic, 5 door 4x4, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Roof rails & roll bar, Load cover, removable roof, Twin glass sun roofs, traction control/hill decent brake, tinted windows, 5-seater.

MAZDA 6 TS £4995.00

05/55, 25000 Miles Grey Metallic, 5 door Hatchback Diesel, Climate Control, PAS, ABS, Alloy Wheels, Air Conditioning, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 6-speed, Euro4 engine.

MERCEDES BENZ CLK 230 KOMPRESSOR AUTO-TIPTRONIC ROADSTER £4995.00

1998/9, 56000 Miles Linenite Blue Metallic, 2 door Convertible Automatic, Climate Control, Power Hood, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 17" AMG alloy wheels, 6-speed, Euro4 engine.

MERCEDES BENZ CLK 230 KOMPRESSOR AUTO-TIPTRONIC ROADSTER £4995.00

1998/9, 56000 Miles Linenite Blue Metallic, 2 door Convertible Automatic, Climate Control, Power Hood, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 17" AMG alloy wheels, 6-speed, Euro4 engine.

MERCEDES BENZ CLK 230 ELEGANCE SE KOMP £4995.00

00/01, 65000 Miles Silver, 2 door Coupe Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Heated front seats, 17" AMG alloy wheels, 6-speed, Euro4 engine.

MERCEDES BENZ CLK 230 ELEGANCE SE KOMP £4995.00

00/01, 65000 Miles Silver, 2 door Coupe Automatic, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Cruise Control, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, 12 Months New Mot, Heated front seats, 17" AMG alloy wheels, 6-speed, Euro4 engine.

ISSAN MICRA S 1.2 £4995.00

05/05, 24000 Miles Blade Silver, 5 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, One Owner, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo.

ISSAN MICRA S 1.2 £4995.00

05/05, 24000 Miles Blade Silver, 5 door Hatchback, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, One Owner, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo.

PEUGEOT 307 2.0 CC S £11695.00

05/55, 26000 Miles Grey Metallic, 3 door Convertible, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, Power Hood, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Multiple Air-bags, Electric folding mirrors, parking sensors 140psi.

PEUGEOT 206 VERVE 1.4HDi SPECIAL EDITION £6995.00

06/06, 25000 Miles Silver, 5 door Hatchback Diesel, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Air Con, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, One Owner, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Front fog lamps. Many special features, including interior and exterior finishings.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1.6 VVTI £9995.00

07/07, 20000 Miles Grey Metallic, 5 door MPV, Climate Control, Leather Upholstery, PAS, ABS, Air Bag, Passenger Air Bag, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows, Electric Mirrors, FSH, Alarm, Immobiliser, CD Player, Stereo, Heated front seats, Multiple Air-bags, 6-speed, Euro4 engine emissions.

AUDI

A4, 2.0 TDi TDV S Line 5dr, abs, alarm, traction control, e/w, black, 15900 miles, £22299, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

GRAND MOVE, v3280hj, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, red, 45000 miles, £2699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

CONTINENTAL GT, 2005, arena red metallic with saddle leather interior, 28000 miles, £69950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 325ci coupe manual, 2002, topaz blue met with anthracite cloth and leather, 49000 miles, £10950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 24637, finished in poly silver with grey interior manual, grey, 0 miles, £5995, Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 51700 (TRADE)

FIAT

DOBLO, 1.3 16v MultiJet Active, 63256, choice of colours, 0 miles, £8995, Thame Group Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD CONNECT T200, 05 2004, 1.8 tdci 90 ps swb white 81.000 miles, £3995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD

FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, 01 2005, 2.4 td 90 ps crew cab tipper 62.000 miles fsh, £10495, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FORD TRANSIT 350 LWB, 09 2004, 2.4 tdci 135 ps med roof blue 6 speed fsh, 0 miles, £8995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

HONDA

SIRION, S 1.0, 2006, blue, 11822 miles, £6925, Morris Forshaw, Maidstone, 01622 750 442 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, 1.8 i, 1998, turquoise, 107000 miles, £1895, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, 2002, a/con alloys e/wind c/lock cd, ultra blue, 28275 miles, £1500, WJ King Vauxhall, Farnham, 01322 862366 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6 3DR, 2003, trim: part leather engine size: 1600 manual, monaco blue, 14000 miles, £9995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 170649, mini cooper 1.6 3dr mazda mazda Tunbridge Wells drake & fletcher yellow, 2001, 26500 miles, manual, petrol, 3 doors, 1 previous owners, yellow, £8395, Drake and Fletcher Mazda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT EXPERT 815, 12 2004, 1.9d 3 seats twin doors lined 74.000 miles fsh, £5400, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

RENAULT

RENAULT KANGOO 655, 04 1999, 1.9d white 77.000 miles, £1500, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

RENAULT

RENAULT KANGOO SL 17 70, 10 2004, 1.5 dci side door blue 19.000 miles, £4995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

SEAT

IBIZA CHILL, 51, seat ibiza 1.4 51 petrol chill model, climate control air con, power steering, alloy wheels, driver airbag, cassette/radio, electric windows, good condition in, postbox red, 67500 miles, £3000, Kent, 07843588989 (PRIVATE)

SEAT

IBIZA, 1.9TDI FR 3dr, 01/09/2004, cd player abs black, 38657 miles, £7999, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 08444 992321 (TRADE)

SUBARU

FORESTER, 2.0 XT Turbo, 2003, blue over silver, 64000 miles, £7995, CB Motors, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

SUZUKI jimny jlx, 09 2000, 1.2 p auto 4x4 estate red 45.000 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, 1.1 GL Hatchback 5dr, 04/2004, pas alloys fog lights cd player fms 1061cc 16v, met black, 18000 miles, £3, 995, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

TOYOTA HI ACE 280 GS D4D, 09 2006, 2.5 td 88 swb white 21.000 miles fsh rear tailgate, £8995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

TOYOTA HI ACE LWB D4D, 01 2006, 2.5 td met silver 20.000 miles fsh, £8995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

TOYOTA HI ACE POWERVAN, 03 2000, 2.4d swb gs 3 seats white, 0 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

COROLLA, 1.6 Vvt i T3, 149649, 5dr 2004, 19000 miles, manual, petrol, 5 doors, silver, £7995, Drake and Fletcher Honda, Tunbridge Wells, 0845 130 4298 (TRADE)

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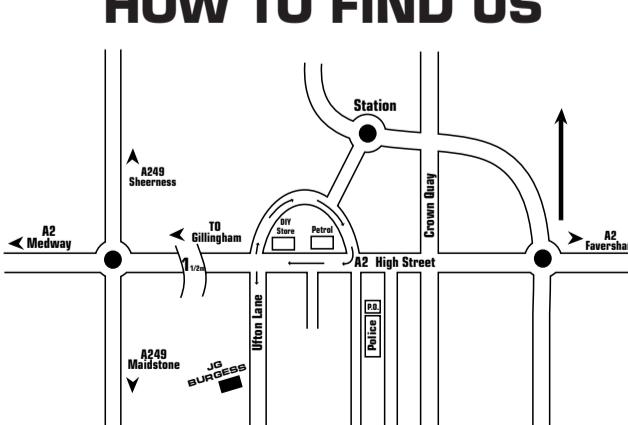
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Mrs Zerina Slade, Headteacher
Napier Community Primary and Nursery School, Napier Road
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Kent ME7 4HG
Telephone - (01634) 574920
Fax - 01634 574920
Email: sladz001@medway.org.uk

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Kerry Trim, Assistant Headteacher
Warren Wood community Primary School and language unit
Arethusa Road
Rochester
Kent ME1 2UR
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Email: trimk001@medway.org.uk

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You will work closely with the General Manager to ensure the efficient operation of yard facilities, equipment and personnel. You will be involved in all areas of management including, recruitment, staff motivation, productivity, training, auditing, logistics, health & safety, inventory management, etc.

The successful candidates will have existing leadership skills and experience. They will be excellent time managers who understand the need to exceed customer expectations. With a hands on, 'get stuck in' approach, they will be committed to taking a leading role in Copart's future.

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You will be expected to learn about every area of the branch, including: customer calls, office processes, customer vehicle pick-up, storage, sale and delivery processes, yard operations, record keeping, etc.

This position would suit a positive, proactive, and capable individual who's not afraid to get their hands dirty whilst they train to be a leader of the future.

Both positions involve UK travel, and are rewarded with competitive salary and benefits packages.

Applications are invited from all sectors as full training will be provided.

Interested? Please send your CV and covering letter, including salary expectations and preferred location, to Lydia Edwards, Copart UK, Acrey Fields, Woburn Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire, MK43 9EJ or email lydia.edwards@copart.co.uk

Closing date: Friday, 28 December 2007

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A great opportunity has arisen for bright, hard working individuals to join the Hospitality and Events team at Brands Hatch being part of the team responsible for organising and coordinating all corporate and race day hospitality at the Brands Hatch circuit.

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This hands on role would suit a candidate with previous experience working within a fast paced department which deals with a large volume of admin work, requiring accuracy and good presentation at all times. They will be highly organised, demonstrate strong Outlook, Word and Excel skills, and be comfortable communicating with customers both face to face and over the telephone.

Educated to A-level standard or equivalent, they will possess excellent written and spoken English skills, be a good communicator and ideally have previous front of house experience in the hotel, conferencing or events industry. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate that they can work under their own initiative and have an eye for detail.

Hospitality and Events Administrator

The Hospitality and Events Administrator will provide administrative support and assist with the co-ordination of forthcoming corporate driving events, conferences, banquets and race day hospitality for Brands Hatch.

The successful candidate will ideally be educated to A-level standard or equivalent and possess excellent written and spoken English skills, as well as being experienced within a fast paced department which deals with a large volume of admin work, requiring accuracy and good presentation at all times. They will be highly organised, demonstrate strong Outlook, Word and Excel skills, and be comfortable communicating with customers handling customer queries and requests both face to face and over the telephone.

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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services. Founded in 1975 and currently employing over 300 paid and unpaid staff, it has an annual budget of £11 million and is becoming established as one of the leading service providers in the South East Region.



REF: 457 - TRAINER - FAVERSHAM
Salary: £22,122 - £28,172 (SCP 27-35) pro rata
15 hours per week
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The focus of this role will be to facilitate/deliver a range of training courses/modules to staff, volunteers (and potentially external organisations). This will primarily be related to drugs and alcohol, but will include a range of associated issues. You will have specific responsibility for delivering CBT, Motivational Interviewing & Brief Solution Focused Therapy. Therefore a counselling/clinical psychology qualification would be desirable. This is an exciting time for KCA (UK) as we strive to meet the challenges of continued expansion/diversification and the implementation of DANOS and National Open College Network Accredited Training.

You should be an experienced drug and alcohol practitioner and preferably have experience of providing training in the field.

For application forms and further information, contact: KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351 Email marina@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 14th December 2007 at 12.00 noon
Interview date: Tuesday 8th January 2008

KCA(UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

HMYOI Cookham Wood near Rochester is to become an establishment accommodating 15-17 year old young men, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board. It is anticipated that the change of role will take place in January 2008.

HEAD OF CARE AND REDUCING RE-OFFENDING £29,184 - £43,927

As a key member of the Senior Management Team, you will be tasked with developing, implementing and managing the arrangements for the reduction of re-offending. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a new team providing innovative solutions for young people in custody to provide a safe environment for them and to help them break the cycle of re-offending. It is essential that you have a sound knowledge of the resettlement needs of young people being released from custody and a good working knowledge of safeguarding processes. Extensive experience of working with young people is essential and also of managing a multi-disciplinary team. Social work qualifications are desirable.

CHILD PROTECTION – CO-ORDINATOR £23,434 - £30,676

By providing Child Protection advice, guidance and practical support, you will ensure the prison is a safe and child focused environment for the young people. As the main point of contact within the establishment for Child Protection matters, you will advise the Governor, Senior Management Team and other staff on Child Protection policy and practice. It is essential that you hold or be working towards a Social Work qualification and have knowledge of Child Protection legislation and operation in a multi-agency arena. You should also possess an understanding of the complex issues faced by young people in custody. Experience of working with or in a child protection team is desirable, as is experience of policy and procedure writing.

CASEWORK TEAM LEADER £23,434 - £30,676

We require a Team Leader, preferably with casework management experience, to manage the Casework Team who are responsible for the provision of a co-ordinated range of resettlement services for both remand and convicted young people at Cookham Wood and effective resettlement outcomes. You must be able to work in a logical, methodical and organised manner. An understanding of risk-led sentence management and the Youth Justice System, both in the community and in custody is desirable together with knowledge of e-ASSET and the Wiring up Youth Justice Programme.

NURSE £19,288 - £23,293

A nurse with post-registration experience is needed to provide offenders with nursing and healthcare services that promote self care, personal well being and that will enable them to take responsibility for their own health. You must be able to work autonomously within a prison setting and supervise junior members of the team. With evidence of continuing professional development, it is desirable that you have skills in phlebotomy, suturing, triage and minor injuries/illnesses, chronic disease management and experience of working with those that self-harm and crisis intervention for primary care mental health.

CLEANER £11,371 - £11,716

To carry out cleaning services around the prison including carpeted areas, desks, bins and toilets, maintaining a high standard and taking into account Health and Safety issues. Experience is preferable but not essential.

Completed applications should be returned to James Restall, Kent & Sussex Areas Recruitment & Conference Centre, Sir Evelyn Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3PZ Tel: 01634 673036 Fax: 01634 673050. Closing date for the return of completed applications is 2nd January 2008.

This post is open to part-time and job share applicants. You will be required to declare whether you are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist. The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

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In addition, the appointed person will

- have a good general standard of education (GCSE English & Maths)
- be computer literate (intermediate Microsoft Excel)
- have a working knowledge of SIMS FMS6 (desirable)
- have previous experience of managing accounts
- be able to work under pressure and to set deadlines

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 18.12.07

THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH AT MEDWAY SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

Ref: 00873/K3

A keen individual is required to provide secretarial and administrative support for the University's School of Engineering. Duties include assisting senior staff, including maintenance of diaries, preparation of meetings, responding to routine communications, maintenance of filing systems, travel arrangements etc. In addition the post holder will provide administrative and secretarial support for one of the School's departments or key functions involving the production of letters and other School documents, assisting with the organisation of meetings and events, general office duties. The post holder will also, on occasion, provide relief cover for the School's reception.

You must have excellent communication skills, a flexible attitude to work, the ability to work accurately under pressure and to work as a member of a team. Experience of working in the academic environment is desirable, as is the willingness to work outside normal hours on occasions.

Salary scale: £18,702 - £21,682 per annum

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ref: 00869/K3

This post in the Division of Learning Enhancement, Access and Partnership (LEAP) is to undertake a range of secretarial and administrative duties in support of the Head of the Educational Partnerships Unit.

The post will have a primary focus on supporting the administration and development of the Summer University and Study Skills programmes within the University.

You will have a good level of secondary education, extremely strong IT skills with a sound knowledge of Microsoft Access, ability to work with a wide range of client groups, staff and students, experience of working to tight deadlines, be prepared to travel to other University campuses, work flexible hours at peak times and be able to work on your own initiative with a minimum of supervision.

Salary scale: £18,702 - £21,682 per annum

KINGS HILL CONFERENCE AND TRAINING CENTRE RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ref: 00885/K3

Located within the Kings Hill Business Park, the Kings Hill Conference and Training Centre at West Malling, Kent is ideally situated midway between London and the Channel Tunnel and is easily accessible from the Kent motorway network. The purpose built premises offer superb facilities for conferences, training and all other business events in 14 rooms with capacities varying from a 10 seat boardroom to a conference room for 140 people as well as a computer training suite. The rooms are equipped to a high technical standard and staff provide the level of service expected from a premier Conference & Training Centre.

To provide the first point of contact for delegates and visitors entering the building, liaise between departments to deal with customer's requests, operate switchboard, and provide administrative support to the conference team.

You should be able to deal professionally with people, have a good telephone manner, and be competent with Microsoft Office.

This post is a job share appointment to cover 18-25 hours per week. Normal working week of 2 days, 8 am-6 pm, plus one half day although some flexibility is possible.

Salary scale: pro rata to £16,199 - £18,702 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 19 December 2007.

the University of Greenwich at Medway
**CONTRACTS MANAGER
(FIXED TERM)**

Ref: 00870/K3

A dynamic, self motivated individual is required to contract manage all LLN (Lifelong Learning Network) funded activities being delivered through partner institutions and other organisations. This new post will be based in the small LLN management team.

If you are a good negotiator with experience of managing and administering complex projects as well as experience of managing contracted-out work, then this might be your opportunity to put your skills to work on a project with five higher education institutions, seven further education colleges and a range of other organisations. You will have good report writing skills, an understanding of complex budgets, be able to analyse and manipulate data using Excel and will have experience of managing or maintaining web-based information. You will also need to have a flexible attitude to work, the ability to work accurately under pressure and as a positive and productive team member.

This post is fixed term to 31 August 2009.

Salary £26,666 - £30,012 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 14 December 2007.



Qualified Teachers - Kent Children's Centres'

Main Professional Grade or Upper Pay Scale:
£20,133 - £29,427 or £31,878 - £34,281 pa

Fringe Scale:
£21,102 - £30,393 or £32,847 - £35,250
plus TLR 2(2) of £3,940 pa

Part or full-time opportunities

In the context of the Government's agenda of rolling out children's centres to cover the country, Kent County Council is seeking to appoint up to 15 full time equivalent qualified early years teachers to work in support of children's centres across Kent. These exciting opportunities will involve working alongside early education and childcare providers in all sectors to promote and support the highest quality care and learning opportunities for children from birth to five.

Kent currently has 20 Children's Centres throughout the county - with plans to increase this to 72 by 2008. Each centre serves approximately 800 children, offering a range of multi-agency services, with a qualified teacher contributing to the strategic development and direction.

You will be outstanding and experienced practitioners, possessing excellent interpersonal and communication skills as these will be crucial to achievement in this significantly multi-agency, cross sector environment.

Kent is seeking to appoint candidates on a part time basis to work in one centre, or alternatively on a full time basis to work across two centres.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

If you would like further information about these posts, please contact in the first instance Stacey Joyce on 01622 626685 or email stacey.joyce@kent.gov.uk

For an application pack, please contact Kym Hobson on 01622 605788
or email: kym.hobson@kent.gov.uk

Please quote the relevant reference for the location(s) you wish to apply for:

Ashford (ref: CFE/07/0454) Canterbury (ref: CFE/07/0455),
Dartford (ref: CFE/07/0456) Gravesham (ref: CFE/07/0457),
Maidstone (ref: CFE/07/0458) Sevenoaks (ref: CFE/07/0459),
Shepway (ref: CFE/07/0460) Swale (ref: CFE/07/0461),
Thanet (ref: CFE/07/0462)
Tonbridge and Malling (ref: CFE/07/0463),
Tunbridge Wells (ref: CFE/07/0464)

Closing date: 3 January 2008

**Interviews: w/c 28 January
& 4 February 2008**



www.kent.gov.uk/jobs



With the Port of Dover at the East of the county, Kent has a significant number of children and young people arriving in the country and claiming asylum as separated children. These are Looked After Children and therefore supported into independence as Care Leavers.

The Service for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (SUASC) is responsible for assessing their needs and providing services, as a specialist countywide provision within the Children, Families and Education Directorate.

Team Leader

West Kent

Ref: CFE/07/0443

Starting salary £36,245 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £41,881 per annum

Practice Supervisor

East Kent

Ref: CFE/07/0444

Starting salary £32,779 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £39,712 per annum

Senior Practitioner

East Kent

Ref: CFE/07/0445

Starting salary £32,779 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £39,712 per annum

Social Worker

East Kent

Ref: CFE/07/0446

£22,268 - £39,712 per annum (salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfillment of required competencies)

Young Persons Community Support Worker

East Kent

Ref: CFE/07/0447

Starting salary £22,268 per annum, with progression through contribution related pay to £25,521 per annum

You will have a variety of skill mix and abilities, commitment and drive, a positive attitude to multi-agency assessment, best practice principles and an ability to enable young people who come from many parts of the world, to achieve their potential.

As part of our Staff Care Package we offer a comprehensive induction programme, significant investment in training and career development, health checks, an international exchange programme and flexible working. We've earned our 3 star rating by retaining excellent staff who provide an excellent service.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau and (with the exception of the Young Persons Community Support Worker) to registration as a qualified social worker with the General Social Care Council.

Closing date: midday, 19 December 2007.

Staff Officer to Managing Director

Starting salary £34,507, with progression through contribution related pay to £39,712 per annum

Sessions House, Maidstone

Ref: CFE/07/0448

Following promotion of the previous post holder, an excellent career opportunity has arisen for an organised individual to provide high level support to CFE's Managing Director.

Providing comprehensive, co-ordinated and effective support, you will arrange and support senior meetings of CFE's SMT, EMT and Cabinet Members as well as organising events and meetings with external partners. To support these actions, you will have direct line management for the MD's Office team.

With experience of operating in a demanding, politically sensitive environment, you will have an awareness of the mechanics of the operation of local government, experience of managing people and preferably have an understanding of the role of Children's Services.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Closing date: midday, 17 December 2007.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.

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**Mrs C R Pleasance
Kingsfords LLP
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Ashford, Kent TN23 1PD**

Kingsfords are an equal opportunity employer.



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Please e mail CV to
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Martin Fisher, Nelson Policies, Nelson House,
35 Station Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3DU
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Email: contactus@thecountybedcompany.com
Closing Date: 24th December 2007

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f) Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
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15. All private advertisement and certain categories as laid down by the Publisher must be prepaid.
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hi-tech crime is given low priority, says forum

BUSINESS leaders in computer security have criticised the Government's efforts to tackle online crime.

Members of the Corporate IT Forum, a body of information technology experts, have complained that, since a Government reshuffle of police units, e-crime against companies has been on the increase.

Since the National High Tech Crime Unit was incorporated into the Serious Organised Crime Unit in 2006, local police forces have been given the job of dealing with complex online crimes – a task that security experts say they are under-trained and under resourced to deal with.

David Roberts, chief executive of the Corporate IT Forum, said the resources allocated by the Home Office to tackle electronic crimes were not sufficient.

"It's a practical nonsense," said Mr Roberts.

"You can imagine the response an IT officer would get reporting a complex attack at their local police station – how is your local PC going to cope?"

"It's a damning indictment of how little the Home Office understands 21st-century hi-tech crime."

The criticism comes after a series of security breaches involving Government information systems, the most serious of which was the loss by HM Revenue and Customs of computer disks containing the personal details about 25 million child benefit claimants.

Wheels on the bus set to keep going round

BUS company Stagecoach, which operates services across the county, has reported a nine per cent increase its half-year profits and says that the long-term future for public transport prospects remain positive.

Pre-tax profits rose to £84.6m in the six months to October 31, with revenues up to £821m.

Stagecoach said increasing car congestion and a growing focus on environmental issues would help to attract more passengers to its services, which also include trains.

The company said it planned to spend £71m on 584 new buses across the UK in the immediate future.

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 A lifelong passion for chocolate led Kate Blyth to open up her own shop

Poor are victims of exploitation

By **NICK AMES**

ENERGY companies are exploiting some of society's poorest people, according to an industry watchdog – which has accused them of being "morally bankrupt".

Customers with pre-payment meters are paying hundreds of pounds each year more than those with access to cheaper tariffs.

The meters are most frequently used by people who do not have a bank account and can incur costs of more than £300 above the normal annual rates for electricity and gas.

Meanwhile, those who can pay by direct debit can save almost £200 a year on set fees, says Energywatch.

Chief executive Allan Asher said: "That they should ramp up the rates and exploit those with no access to alternative payment methods is morally bankrupt."

Industry regulator Ofgem said companies looked to install the meters when a customer had problems paying bills.

They are most common in rented accommodation and nationally there are 3.5 million electricity meters and 2.2 million gas ones.

Energywatch has also discovered the numbers being installed are soaring year by year, with some 580,000 new ones set up last year.

The group claims the industry is making close to £300 million a year in revenue from customers on the pre-payment meters.

Recent figures reveal that between 2003 and 2006 gas bills rose by a staggering 94 per cent and electricity costs by 60 per cent.

Last year saw the average home charges top £1,000 for the first time.

Mr Asher said: "Consumers without internet or banking facilities are excluded from better deals. These figures show that the welcome actions by some suppliers to combat fuel



EXPENSIVE: Pre-pay meters are said to be costing users up to £300 a year more than regular energy customers

poverty are offset by the extra costs and poorer service inflicted on those forced into prepayment charges.

"Another industry where the poor are exploited is the personal credit market, where poorer people are forced to pay much higher rates of interest. Energy companies, who are providing essential-for-life services, should take no comfort from such a comparison."

But the body representing suppliers defended the use of the meters saying they gave cus-

tomers more control over the amount of energy they use.

Duncan Sedgwick, chief executive of the Energy Retail Association, said equalising tariffs would be "a blunt instrument to tackle a much more complex issue".

He claimed the real issue was how best to look after the interests of poor and vulnerable consumers, and a raft of measures were in place to do this, including grants for free insulation and financial help for those in debt.

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Valence suffer seventh defeat

THREE goals by Folkestone Optimist Hockey team proved too much for Sutton Valence men's 1st XI as they slumped to their seventh defeat of the season.

Valence have now lost two games on the bounce, after a 4-2 loss last time out against Eastbourne and could only score a consolation goal in a 3-1 defeat on Saturday.

The result leaves Valence in ninth place in the Kent Sussex Regional League, just four points adrift of fourth place.

The team now has a break before they face Herne Bay when the league reconvenes on January 5.

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 Action from an exciting clash for the Invicta Dynamos at Gillingham Ice Rink

Dani hopes to Master Dubai

GOLF ace Dani Masters begins the final event of a successful season tomorrow at the Dubai Ladies Masters.

The 24-year-old finished in a share of 32nd place last weekend at the penultimate tournament of the year in Bangalore, India.

And now she has an eye on a good finish at the Emirates Golf Club to claim a share of the 500,000 prize fund, which could lift her into the top 30 on the Ladies European Tour money list.

She said: "I'm really looking forward to the Dubai tournament, I know the course after playing there last year and the facilities are fantastic. It is a really nice trip to finish the season."

Wherever she finishes in Dubai, the Maidstone-based golfer has enjoyed more success than her debut season last year.

After the tournament, Masters plans to spend Christmas at home with family before heading to Australia next month for the start of the 2008 season.



DISTRAUGHT: Stefan Davis lost out in the British Rally Championship after a catalogue of errors which left him heartbroken after narrowly losing out on the title in his debut season

Rally star's devastation after string of mix-ups

ORGANISERS of the Wales Rally GB have told of their "regret" at a mix-up which cost driver Stefan Davis the British Rally Championship Super 1600 title.

Rally star Davis was left heartbroken last weekend after narrowly losing the title by two minutes.

Davis went into the final round of the series in pole position, with just the gruelling 230 miles of the Wales Rally GB to finish, a result which would have seen him claim the title in his debut season.

However, after a sequence of unfortunate events during the three-day rally, the Maidstone-based driver lost out after arriving at the last stage late, due to a misunderstanding with officials at the end of the penultimate stage.

The mix-up with officials was just one of a catalogue of errors for the Kent racer, after co-driver Pat Cooper was forced to pull out before the meeting which left Davis without an experienced navigator.

As a result, Davis had to call on rookie Neil Foulkes to lend a hand but his inexperience in never having written pace notes, meant Davis had to drive the first stage 'blind.'

His Ford Puma then suffered a suspension failure and he and his stand in co-driver had to fix it whilst in competition.

Davis made it to the end of the stage just

RALLY RACING

■ BY TOM HOWARD

before the time limit, but an argument with officials over whether he had finished in time, meant he was not back on the road for about three minutes, which proved costly.

After finally receiving a time from the officials, Davis rushed to the final stage only to miss the start time by two minutes.

It meant he could not compete in the last stage, but organisers gave an estimated time and classified him as finishing – a result that was not good enough to claim the title.

A distraught Davis said: "It hurt to lose the title by marshals who didn't know what they were doing after coming so close to securing it in my debut season. It ripped my heart out."

According to the 28 year-old, he was offered a letter of apology from the officials due to the error, but officials from the Wales Rally GB deny this.

He said: "The letter would look a bit out of place in my trophy cabinet. Without this success I will really struggle to encourage backing for 2008 and my short-lived career will be over."

A spokesman for Wales Rally GB told Yourmaidstone the situation could have been handled differently.

He said: "We regret what has happened to Stefan – he is a great rally driver and has real

potential. It was questionable whether Davis arrived at the check-in after the penultimate stage late. What his co-driver, who is in charge of the time keeping, should have done was phone rally head quarters immediately and the problem would have been resolved. Instead, we classified him as a finisher in the rally and gave him an estimated time for the last stage without any time penalties, but of course this would not have been as good as the time he would have set."

The final result meant Davis was classified 21st, but lost the title to eventual winner Darren Gass from Northern Ireland by a mere two points. However, despite this devastating blow, Davis never dreamed he would be in title contention in his first year in the championship. He also believes the experience can only stand him in good stead for the event next year.

He said: "Competing in the Wales Rally GB was a great experience. It is a tough event and even tougher without any pace notes. The British Championship is a hard series but hopefully I can use the experience for next year and reap the benefits. Now I have had a taste for the title I definitely want to secure it soon."

As for next season, Davis hopes he can attract investors so he can have another assault on the Super 1600 title next year.

He said: "At the moment, I am ringing round various people in the hope they will back me so I can compete in the championship next season."



DOMINATE: Maidstone Mustangs dominate proceedings with a seven try haul against Dover

Mustangs drive Dover to defeat

RUGBY

Maidstone Mustangs 43
Dover 2nds 0

try shortly after when Ferris tapped a penalty and passed to hooker and captain Nick East who he charged over the line.

Dover tried to respond but their attacks were thwarted by a strong Maidstone defence.

Maidstone increased their lead to 21-0 at the break following a second try from Leggatt. He received the ball in a flowing move following a kicked clearance from their 22

and skipped around the advancing defenders to score in the corner.

In the second half, the onslaught continued, full back Martin Arnold sprinted past the opposition defenders and scored in the corner.

The Mustangs went over the Dover line once again through Josh Pankhurst to increase the lead even further.

Maidstone sealed the game with two more tries as Dover bowed to the inevitable victory. The extra class proved decisive in the victory and many of the side could be rewarded by a first team outing next year.

The Mustangs are back in action on Saturday, when they face Tonbridge Juddians 2nds at the Mote.

THE Mote was the venue for another convincing win for Maidstone Mustangs, as they put seven tries past Dover 2nds to maintain their unbeaten run in the Kent Invicta League.

With the first team not playing last weekend, many Mustang players saw this as a chance to get noticed by the first team, who are back in league action in January.

After being put under pressure by Dover in the opening minutes, Maidstone counter-attacked through scrum-half James Ferris. His pass found winger Chris Leggatt and he evaded the Dover defenders to score under the posts. The home side scored a second

Striker crisis after shock departure

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United boss Alan Walker is disappointed that inform striker Andy Martin has left the club to join Ryman Division One South side Leatherhead.

News broke of Martin's shock departure last Friday and he now leaves the Stones with a striker problem, with only three recognised forwards on the club's books.

Martin joined Maidstone United during the summer from Tonbridge Angels and has been heavily involved in the club's rise up the Ryman Premier League. He has scored four league goals, including the crucial winner in the Stones' 4-3 win at Margate last month. Martin was lured away from the club by an offer of more money and leaving the club during an injury crisis.

The Stones have now lost two strikers in a month following the departure of fans' favourite Luis Cumbers.

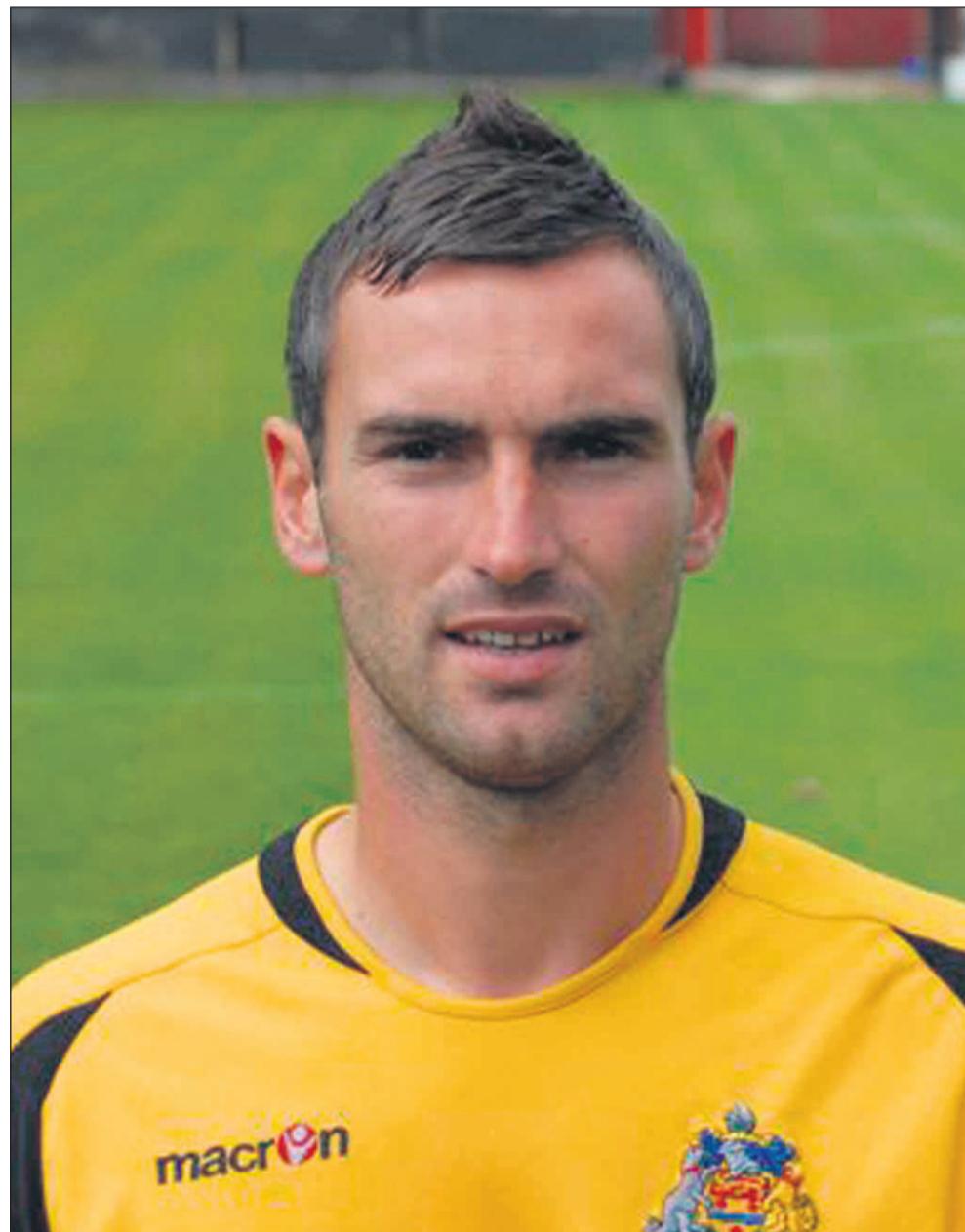
Manager Walker said: "I am very disappointed. We stuck by Andy during his tough times at the club and we hoped he would show us more loyalty. He leaves us with next-to-no players due to a number of injuries that have affected some of our key men."

However, Maidstone have managed to acquire the services of Blue Square South 18-year-old striker Steffan Gaisie for a month. The Bishop Stortford striker has scored once this season in a 6-2 win against Hampton & Richmond Borough.

Walker added: "He will bring pace to the front line. Pace is very important at this level, as we saw when we had Cumbers up front. His style of play will compliment the way Lynden Rowland performs in the attack."

Maidstone United will be in league action at Bourne Park this Saturday against Hastings United.

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture STEVE TERRELL

DEPARTED: Andy Martin has left Maidstone United. He will be remembered for scoring the winner in a 4-3 win at Margate



HEADS HELD HIGH: Aylesford Bulls Ladies battle hard after reaching the quarter-finals in Dubai

Bulls bow out after proud Dubai display

IN THEIR first ever international tournament Aylesford Bulls ladies' squad managed to reach the quarter-finals of the prestigious Dubai Sevens competition last week.

Michelle Mayhew, captain of the first XV, took charge of the squad in the Middle-East after receiving an invitation to enter the event. The Kent side managed to overcome teams including premiership rugby players on their way to the quarter-finals in front of a 32,000 capacity crowd at the Dubai Exiles Stadium.

The tournament is one of the most famous on the sevens calendar, with teams from all over the world competing. The men's event was dominated by a strong New Zealand side, who overcame Fiji in the final.

In the first pool match, the Bulls were up against Arabian Gulf and were only beaten 22-7. Their next match was a must-win game to avoid going home early. They were up against a team called Moody Cows, who are a mixture of

RUGBY

ex-England Internationals, Saracens and Harlequin players. The team have won the competition in the past.

The Bulls produced an excellent performance to beat the side of premiership players, without them even scoring a point in a 22-0 thrashing.

However, in the quarter-finals they were given a much stronger test in the shape of national sevens and tens champions Richmond. Aylesford gave it their all but lost 37-0 to a better side on the day.

Mayhew said: "We did very well to get to the quarter-finals and to beat Moody Cows the way we did was a brilliant performance, considering the amount of premiership players in their squad. We hope to take a men's team to the tournament next year, so they too can experience the competition."

yourmaidstone SPORT IN BRIEF

Win at Richmond puts Maidstone back on form

AFTER a disappointing 5-4 defeat against Purley Walcountians last week, Maidstone Hockey Club's men's 1st XI got back to winning ways with a 5-2 victory against Richmond.

The London side are a place above Maidstone in the South Hockey League and the result now closes the gap between the two teams to just a point.

Maidstone will hope to continue their form when the league continues after a winter break on January 12, against Staines.

Disabled football on its way to adult league

MAIDSTONE Raiders PAN disability football team have made another step closer to competing in an adult disability football league.

Manager John Harvey and his team have now assembled a squad of nine players and after Christmas will begin training on a regular basis at the Astor of Hever School.

Harvey will travel to Soho Square to meet the FA's new football development officer today, to discuss the possibility of setting up Kent's first adult disability football league.

Bearsted ready to battle Milton to climb league

FOLLOWING the postponement of their game against Rusthall last week, Bearsted will hope to secure their fifth win of the season against Milton Athletic this Saturday.

The Kent County Premier League outfit have had a tough start to the season with 11 defeats, which has placed them close to the relegation zone.

However, a win against Milton Athletic who have lost just six games this season, would see them rise to ninth in the league.

Cross country champs hoping to defend title

ATHLETES from Medway & Maidstone AC will hope to defend their Kent County Cross Country Championships when the event begins on January 5.

Defending champions Michael Coleman and Jenni Periera will hope to impress at the Detling Showground course, one of their home events.

There will be ten races covering all age groups from under-13s onwards, and runners from across the county will be competing. Supporters are welcome.

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 Gills boss Mark Stimson outlines his plans for January transfers

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